OUTLOOKS

Making Waves in Canada's Gay Community

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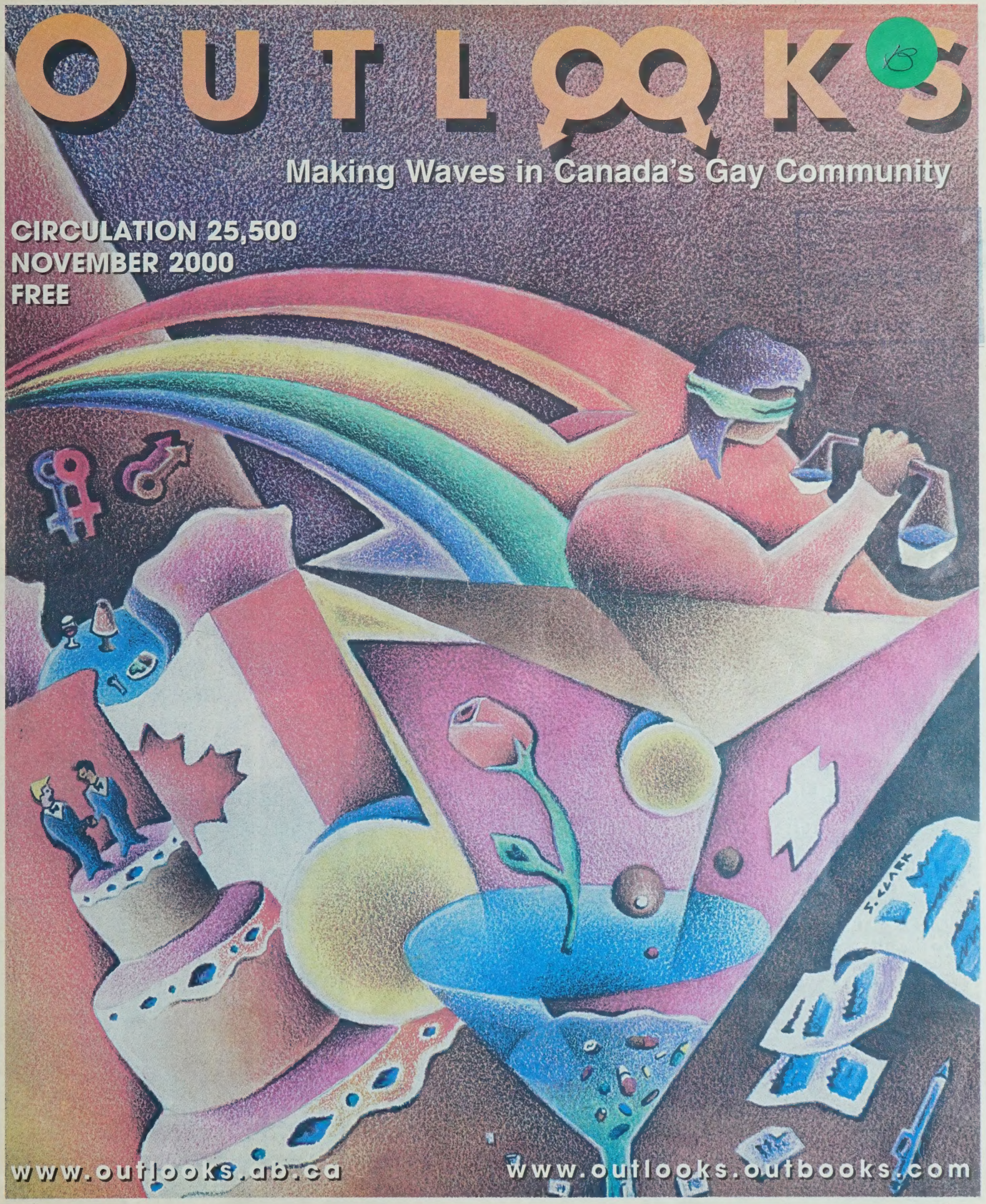

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WHAT'S WHERE

Cover:
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Scott Clark is a Calgary-based freelance graphic artist who writes about visual arts occasionally for *Outlooks*

The Lavender Set

The Fall 2000 TV season is making history as the gayest yet—that is, if you don't consider the sexuality of the performers.

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A Matter of Taste

Not only does chef Renato Almeida appreciate the finer things in life, he *is* one of them.

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Mad About Manchester

There's nought as queer as folk, except possibly the northern English city in which the now-legendary series was set.

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LETTERS

Hi David et al,

While I am not in the habit of penning letters-to-the-editor, I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed your latest issue. Any paper that includes interviews with both Jeanne Beker and Chi Chi LaRue in the same issue gets my support! The discourse on Stockboy Day has also been very interesting.

You've come a long way. Congratulations, and keep it up.

Chris.

Dear *Outlooks* readers:

Thank you for your many responses to my September letter on gays and the Canadian Alliance. Of the four media outlets that printed variations of the piece, *Outlooks* readers seemed to have been the most offended by it. Judging from the negative response I received in this particular forum, I have decided that I should respond to your letters.

The reason I wrote the letter was to point out the hypocrisy that exists on both the Christian and gay sides of the gay rights debate. I believe I have succeeded in doing so. The inflammatory words used and generalizations made about gays by Christians have been met by equally immature and inflammatory rhetoric by members of the gay community. Gays relating Mr. Day to Hitler is much like Christians equating gays with child molesters. It appears that both sides need to mature and learn to debate respectfully in order to create bridges rather than divisions. Judging from the responses that I received, some readers are not prepared to do so.

One reader suggested that, for my support of the Alliance, I deserved a "serious ass kicking." The last time I checked, inciting violence was against the law. I don't ever remember Mr. Day advocating or threatening the beating of his opponents into submission. This reader also implies that they believe people should not kill abortionists to stop abortion, yet suggests that beating me up in an attempt to silence me and get their way is okay. Now that's hypocrisy!

Some readers suggested that a CA government would push gays back into the closet. I don't agree. If you go back in the closet, that is *your* choice—and no party or person can make you do so. We, as gays, need to take control and realize that if we feel oppressed, it is up to us to put a stop to that feeling. I don't often feel oppressed, but when I do, I take action to deal with it. I realize that, more often than not, I am not being oppressed; rather, it is my reaction to something that is oppressing me. I am not saying that gays cannot be oppressed, I just want to point out that it is a gross exaggeration to imply that a CA government would force gays back into the closet. We are the only ones who can put us back into the closet.

Do some readers honestly fear that an Alliance government would want to go to polls, defending their use of the "notwithstanding clause," (s. 33) to deny rights to gays? No party in Canada could win an election based on that platform. The CA knows that, which is why a CA government would never invoke s. 33. The bottom line is that Mr. Day is a democrat. If he speaks out in support of s. 33, it is in response to his constituents' wishes, not imposing his views on other people. Should only those MPs whose constituents hold politically comfortable views be able to speak out? Democracy is about debate, something to which the CA is committed, something to which the Liberals (and their strict party discipline) are not.

To those readers who criticized my mental capacities, I would like them to know that I am on the Dean's list at the University of Calgary and have a grade point average that equals ninety-eight percent. I have also won several awards for public service, leadership and for creating a plan to improve the living standards of Canadians. For those who dismissed my position by implying that only someone with internalized homophobia could support the CA, I point out that I have been on the executive of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Staff and Students (GLASS) at the U of C for three years now. By expressing my opinions in the *Report* magazine, *The Calgary Herald*, *Swerve*, and *Outlooks* and having them debated on the nationally broadcast *Rutherford Show,* I comfortably "outed" myself to my dance students, their families, some "redneck" family members, Calgarians, Albertans, Winnipeggers and Canadians. I am not a closeted, homo-hating fag. I am an out, educated and personable man who is comfortable being gay and working to build bridges with other groups to advance gay rights.

I hope that my letter has made gays more aware of the role they can play in politics, and I trust that they will examine the policies of political parties they support. I hope all of us talk to the candidates in our ridings during the upcoming election regarding gay rights, instead of relying solely on the news media. You'd be surprised how party candidates respond to your questions when you ask them in person. I hope I have exposed the hypocrisy that surrounds the reaction of gays to the political right and vice versa. No one should *ever* be publicly and personally degraded or threatened for their beliefs, and I hope that this is something gays take to heart and apply to all people equally.

Regards,
E. Johnson

Dear *Outlooks*,

A heartfelt message from Dr. Laura Schlessinger

The holiest day of the Jewish Year, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, has just passed. It is the day that Jews throughout the world reflect on their actions for the past year.

I want to take this opportunity to speak directly to the gay and lesbian community, not only in Hollywood, but also throughout the country. While I express my opinions from the perspective of an Orthodox Jew and a staunch defender of the traditional family, in talking about gays and lesbians, some of my words were poorly chosen. Many people perceive them as hate speech. This fact has been personally and professionally devastating to me as well as to many others. Ugly words have been relentlessly repeated and distorted for far too long.

As one of the first radio talk show hosts to take on-air calls from openly gay and lesbian listeners, many of whom were in conflict with their families, my views have been constant throughout the years. Families must reach out to one another and stay connected. To the teenager I have said, "tell your parents" and to Mom and Dad I have said, "embrace and understand your child." I have told parents consistently that all people are made in the image of God and that familial love is more important than any differences between them .

On the Day of Atonement, Jews are commanded to seek forgiveness from people we have hurt. I deeply regret the hurt that this situation has caused the gay and lesbian community.

Dr Laura

DR. LAURA C. SCHLESSINGER

What happened to your October issue? I noticed the front cover was very dull and the ink came off onto my hands more than usual. Have you changed something?

Concerned,
R.W., Edmonton

The Publisher Responds:

Due to technical difficulties at our printers, we had to use a different paper than our usual stock for the October issue. Also, we could not use the heat-dryer oven which normally dries the ink quickly, so that less rubs off. This was a temporary problem, but we did not want to delay the printing of the October issue. Everything is now back to normal and we hope it won't occur again.

—Pub.

Outlooks,

I am writing you only to say that I really love your section "Dear Freddy." It sounds so honest and funny. Thank you for being so much fun. Keep up the good work!

Cheers from Victoria, B.C.
D. Rivera

P.S. I loved the picture you posted in the Hallowe'en issue.

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Jy Keith

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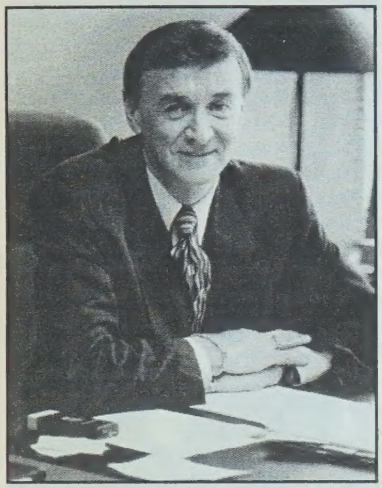
PUBLISHER'S COLUMN

Be careful what you vote for



By Roy Heale

The speculation is over. Uncle Jean has decided to seek his place in the history books by being the first Prime Minister of Canada to win three back-to-back elections (Sir Wilfred Laurier won three elections in a row, and Mackenzie King achieved three consecutive majorities) by the same leader, the same party and the same do-nothing-much approach to government. Only three-and-a-half years into his mandate the polls are telling Chretien that he and his Liberal cohorts could win again. Apart from making history, this may be good and bad for the majority of Canadians—especially the gay and lesbian population. Chretien is not known for exciting initiatives or bold new policies, but he and his government have given us more equality than any other since Trudeau, as justice minister, decriminalized homosexuality in the late '60s. But this liberal government has a reputation for not keeping their promises—remember the last election with the red book promise to scrap the hated GST if the Liberals were elected? Well, guest what? After taxing Canadians into the poorhouse for three-and-a-half years now, the biggest election issue is likely going to be the question of how to spend, spend, spend a multi-billion dollar surplus. Not bad for a humane, governing party.

Having said this, then what are the options? Scarier than Hallowe'en just passed is the thought of Stockwell Day and the official opposition graduating beyond anything other than being just that. The extreme right Canadian Alliance Party, with their religious overtones and "family values," has the potential for being a wolf in sheep's clothing. Don't be misled otherwise. Remember, Stockwell Day was a strong advocate in the cabinet of Ralph Klein's Alberta government to exercise the "notwithstanding clause" in the constitution and overturn the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Delwin Vriend case. Thank goodness Day wasn't the premier of Alberta at that time. That's about enough said of the Westerner who is aspiring to woo the voters of Eastern Canada into believing he's really a moderate in disguise. Hopefully, they'll see right through his campaign costume because, as we all know, governments are usually elected in Canada by voters in Ontario and Quebec.

As a serious contender, that leaves only one other party. And Joe Clark's Conservatives are fighting hard, even though the troops keep defecting. Everyone seems to head to the party having the most fun or the best chance of lasting the longest. The Conservatives have been the quietest recently and the campaign itself will hopefully reveal their intentions and policies. Clark seems to be a born-again politician with a few rabbits in his hat, but he'll need the skill of a true magician to pull this one off.

Allowing for a couple of other parties (the NDP and Bloc Quebecois, both struggling to survive), how do you select where to mark your 'X' on the ballot? First, it's important to remember that the gay and lesbian community represents about 3 million voters from coast to coast. This is enough to elect or defeat any party if every single one of us eligible to vote were to actually cast our ballot. What power that would be—and what kind of government would we have?

Second, the best way to make your choice is to question your local candidates. Make sure you ask each one where they stand on gay issues as well as other concerns you may have. If enough of us ask the questions, we can be sure candidates will become aware of the potential votes we carry. If we are heard asking questions during the campaign, we can have an impact on whichever party wins. Third, you must vote in order to be heard and, again, if we all took the time to vote, it would probably be the largest voter turnout in Canadian history. Maybe we could stand alongside Jean Chretien with our own place in the history books. Except, of course, we would remain a faceless minority who played a role in electing a new government.

Have some fun seeking out your choice, but take it seriously when you realize the next government, the next four years and your own future depend on this election's outcome. If you don't vote, then don't complain about your national government, but if you *do* vote, choose wisely. Make sure your decisions demonstrate the fact that we're out, loud and proud. With the impact we've had on Dr. Laura's TV show recently, it's important to remember that, when we make our feelings knowns as a community, we can achieve results. See you at the polling stations!

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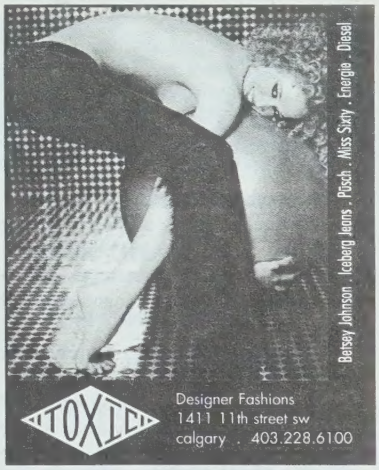
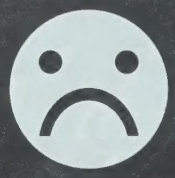




"By the mid-1960's we were in the midst of a sexual revolution. The feminist movement started a strident campaign to bring women in the 20th century. They wanted vengeance and retribution. A gradual blurring of the sexes occurred that gave young men growing up in many female dominated, single parent homes an identity crisis. This led to a rise in militant homosexuality... the things that had been considered improper went looking for a desperate legitimacy.

In my view, no government can make legitimate any behaviour that has for centuries by tradition, custom, faith and the social contract been seen as destructive to family life... if this bill passes without the amendments we have suggested, it will be a sad day for Canada and I, for one, would never want to be a part of that kind of country."

-Reed Elley, MP (Canadian Alliance, Nanaimo-Cowichan)

Source: EGALE

PEOPLE

The music of politics

By Norm Sacuta

Can politics and music co-exist? That might seem like a naïve question, given the success of such pop performers as Rage Against the Machine and Bruce Cockburn. But in a period where popular music seems more controlled than ever by the interests that distribute it—and by multi-national radio stations that play the same six songs over and over again—you have to excuse the average listener for being cynical when any performer comes along professing to have a political agenda or social cause.

The left, in particular, seems a bit ragged and depressed these days—U2's music has all the radicalness of a bake sale. And most of what seems to pass for popular "political music" in the early days of the 21st century is nothing short of Nazi crap (anti-queer, anti-woman) from the likes of Eminem and The Offspring.

Today, with music and art, like everything else in Western society so inextricably tied to making a buck, there's not a whole lot of room for dissent. But Milton Schlosser—an Albertan pianist and professor of music at Augustana College in Camrose—discovered in the music of an American composer Frederic Rzewski the ability to challenge some of the attitudes and politics held sacred in Alberta. As an instructor at a Christian college (Augustana is the former Camrose Lutheran College) and a former student of queer theory at the University of Alberta, Schlosser could identify in Rzewski's work a potential union between musical expression and political desire.

Recently, Schlosser recorded a complete CD of the composer's pieces (*Frederic Rzewski's De Profundis and North American Ballads*, reviewed in last month's issue of this paper). *Outlooks* sat down with Schlosser to discuss the reasons why he chose to perform Rzewski's work, how he felt the CD would be received as a political document, and the connections between gay politics and music in general.

Outlooks: Tell me about the CD and how you came to record it.

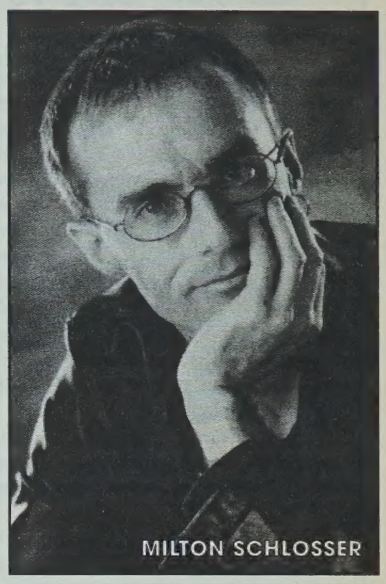
Schlosser: Well, the CD is of two works by this American composer Frederic Rzewski—my interest in him came out of my doctoral studies at the University of Alberta. I received my doctorate in 1995 in piano performance, but as part of that I had to do a series of recitals. In one of my recitals I performed an hour-long work of Rzewski's called The People United Will Never Be Defeated. What was intriguing about this work is that it's based on a Chilean protest song from the 1970s, during the military coup that toppled Allende's government. My supervisor, Stephane Lemelin, pointed out that Mr. Rzewski had written another work, which was based on Oscar Wilde's experiences in prison, to a letter he wrote from prison that people know as De Profundis. Of course for me, this was of immediate attraction because I, in the early part of the 1990s, was just coming out. The words of Wilde also deal with role of the artist in society. Rzewski is a virtuoso pianist, a socialist and he combines all the artistry you would expect of a classical composer. But then he's not afraid to draw on social issues. You know, in the 1990s in Alberta there were a variety of social issues that were creating controversy—everything from Delwin Vriend being fired from Kings, to the eugenics cases. And the government in both of those were threatening to invoke the "notwithstanding clause." So, for me, it was a very volatile period, both personally and politically, and these works of Rzewski seemed to incorporate not only my training as a classical pianist, but also tie in with social issues.

Outlooks: I thought he was a European composer—but he's not. Was he born in America, or did he immigrate there?

Schlosser: He was born in Massachusetts, and grew up there. He's lived in Europe for the last thirty years. And a lot of that is due to the fact that his politics don't quite line up with American politics. When I visited him in 1999—I got a grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts to go—it was just when the Chinese embassy in Belgrade had been bombed. So it was a fascinating time to be with him. I was there to hear his distrust of NATO's bombings of Yugoslavia—its motives and seeming imprecision. I write in my album liner notes how Rzewski's first piano teacher was a Marxist. The piano teacher would relate things in music—such as how precise you need to be in terms of loud and soft—to the bombings that were going on in Korea at the time. Mr. Rzewski, basically, because of the politics, left the States. He's also very critical of European governments—particularly ones that call themselves 'left'. But we have those criticisms of Canada, too, about the left.

Outlooks: You talk about Rzewski's interest in popular and folk idioms. Is this the same sort of interest Brecht would have had? Brecht looked at folk traditions as a means of resistance to certain commercial notions of art. Is this where Rzewski's interest in folk culture is coming from?

Schlosser: I think his interests are very eclectic. He wants to hear the stories of different cultures and in hearing how the oppressed survive. He naturally gravitates towards folk culture because a place like Latin America is where a lot of resistance to dictatorships and corporate power resides. A lot of those struggles—in El Salvador and other countries—come from a grassroots base. Music and story and history and dance come together in interesting ways. He has one piece for voice and piano, entitled Apolitical Intellectuals, that is from a Guatemalan poet. If I remember correctly, the text of the poem asks "Where were you



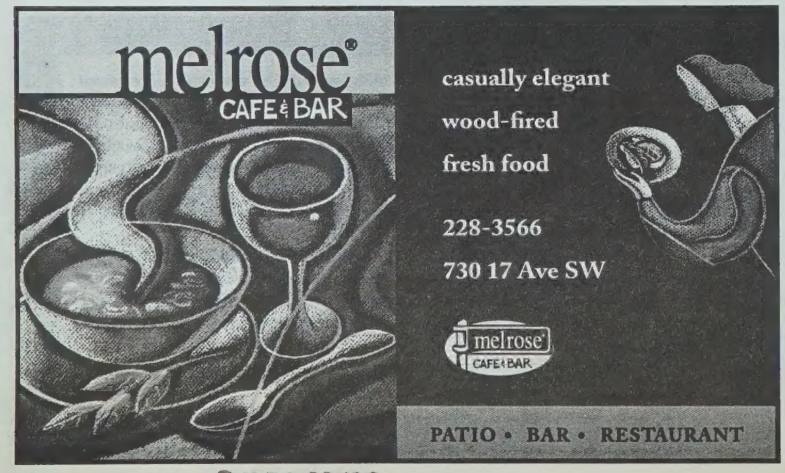
MILTON SCHLOSSER

academics when people were being killed?" And, indeed, his criticism would be that, even though we talk about academic freedom, many intellectuals in North America choose silence in difficult situations.

Outlooks: How does his work fit with other experimental composers—like Stockhausen or Cage? Is it atonal?

Schlosser: I think what attracted me to the music is that it actually incorporates a variety of traditions. My interests are very postmodern. I enjoy a variety of sounds—everything from country to jazz to pop to classical to atonal. And his music presents a wide array of those. At times *De Profundis* sounds like a cabaret work. As if I am sitting at a piano bar talking. It sounds very much like some of the music that came out of the twenties in Berlin. There are moments of dissonance, as well—in this work there's not a lot of atonality. It's mostly tonally based, which makes it quite accessible. But what's funny is that even when his music is highly dissonant, he always draws in popular culture, so at one moment when he's talking about Wilde, suddenly you hear London Bridge is Falling Down, just a little of it. So I think that's what's engaging for me, and

Continued on page 7



Continued from page 6

also for the people for whom I perform his works. I asked him "How do you describe your style?" He just refused to answer. He asked me how I would describe it, and I used the word eclectic. And he—well, it was like interviewing Pierre Trudeau. He refuses to categorize.

Outlooks: How is his music received in Europe?

Schlosser: I think it's received with greater appreciation in Europe. There's more of a tradition of left art, so to speak, of art that is socially based and overtly critical. North American art—and Canadian art in particular—tends to be quite 'polite'. And, of course, I'm speaking from one of the arts that is especially polite, classical music, where we dress almost like priests, where we shed personalities. The courses that I teach at Augustana around music, drawing on feminist and queer theory, investigate this whole notion of how classical musicians tend to shed their personalities. And at times we can be the most conservative of the arts—sometimes for very good reasons. We tend to have patrons, such as the Winspears, [who helped set up the Reform Party], so you always have to be circumspect in terms of your politics.

Outlooks: Let's move on to you, then, and away from Rzewski. You just raised the issue of queer theory, and I wanted to ask you about that. How does queer theory—political theorists like Foucault or Jonathan Dollimore—affect the actual performance of music? It's nice to use queer theory in the classroom, but what about at the performance level?

Schlosser: That's a very good question because I usually come from it through the other way, from the classroom. Hmm…

Outlooks: Well, if I can lead you a little: queer theory can't help but affect the way that you look at music as part of a larger world, or what's been written on the page. Queer theory, at its roots, is Marxist—it demands that you bring the means of production and the social and economic realities of the world to bear on literature and art and gender. If you look at what is written on the page differently, then that should have some sort of effect on the way you perform it.

Schlosser: I think what's interesting for me is that I wrote my dissertation on trying to incorporate queer theory in terms of this piece [Rzewski's]. I think in art we always talk about things such as total commitment to a piece, and within that, and even within academics, there is this sense of "self-knowledge", of "knowing yourself". And,of course, one of the things that queer theory *does* do is raise the issue of "do you know yourself?"; "do you recognize yourself?" And even when we name ourselves as gay or lesbian, are we in essence just opening up another closet that we crawl into? So for me, what's been interesting is this sense of always having to put myself on the line—putting my emotions out there, my identity. That's just a natural part of being a performer. *De Profundis* is explicitly dealing with Oscar Wilde, and you can't get around the fact that this guy wrote this letter when he was in prison for sodomy. I've had to deal with, "What does it mean to perform this work here in Alberta?" And the first time and place I ever performed it was at Augustana, which is a Christian University. And it was an act of courage, even though the text itself doesn't say "I was imprisoned because of sodomy." Nevertheless, I'm dealing with an historical figure who is notorious. If anything, I think queer theory has called me to go a little bit deeper, because as an artist, you don't always have to highlight your sexuality, but you *do* have to be fully present and express yourself. And I often say to my students, when I perform a Mozart sonata it's like putting on an opera—I have to assume a variety of characters. As an artist you have to put on persona. So, on one level, queer theory can call forth an emotional and intellectual honesty and also prompt one to perform works like this, which I know can be problematic for some audiences. I've had to think: how does one present homosexuality to an Alberta audience without again stepping into another closet? And even with my students at Augustana—I teach two courses, one on music and gender and another where we spend two weeks on queer theory—how do I present the lives of gay and lesbian composers and artists in such a way that it will educate people who maybe have never thought about it? Because it's not necessarily homophobia; sometimes it's just that they haven't even thought about it.

Milton Schlosser's *Frederic Rzewski's De Profundis and North American Ballads* is available from Arktos Recordings and is distributed through SRI Limited. Copies are available in Edmonton at Orlando Books.

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Crowns For Kids coming soon

IN THE NEWS

Despite unusually temperate weather across the country this fall, the calendar assures us that the holiday season is, indeed, fast approaching. And that means the Crowns For Kids toy drive is gearing up for yet another successful run.

Started five years ago by Ron Cardy (AKA Mz. Rhonda, Empress XX), the annual campaign was inspired by a similar program Cardy had seen undertaken by the Court in San Diego, CA. Upon his return to Calgary, Cardy (a gay father himself) decided that underprivileged children in his own city could benefit from the goodwill of the festive season and declared, "Until the day I die, there will always be a Crowns For Kids."

One of the most important aspects of the toy drive for Cardy is the bridge it builds between the gay and straight communities. Acknowledging that the holidays are not a time for 'putting up fences,' Cardy has extended the program to include such 'straight' beneficiaries as The Women's Shelter and Children's Hospital.

Last year's campaign was one of Crowns For Kids most successful to date, and Cardy hopes that the spirit of giving will remain strong for the 2000 drive. The project will kick-off with a special show Saturday, November 25th, at the Midnight Café, commencing at 10:30pm. New toys will be accepted through the Rainbow Pride Resource Centre and the Midnight Cafe from November 25th until December 22nd. For more information on how to become involved in the Crowns For Kids 2000 project, contact Ron Cardy at 399-2102.

- By Outlooks Staff

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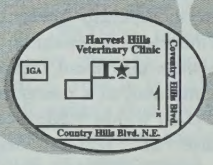

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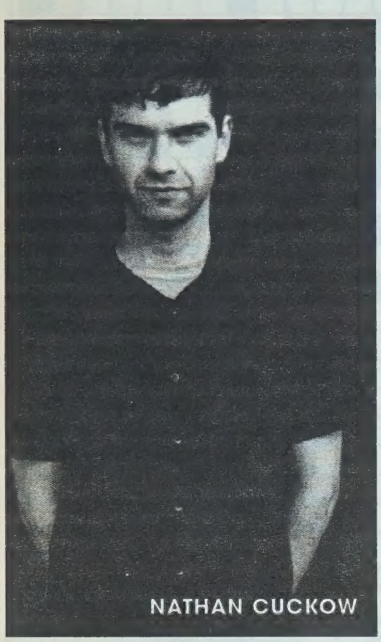

NATHAN CUCKOW

By Darrin Hagen

In a world where categorization is so merciless, those who defy definition stand apart.

Actor Nathan Cuckow has skillfully avoided being pigeonholed, to date, by virtue of sheer versatility. He performed as one half of a Siamese twin in last season's Stewart Lemoine offering, *Too Tall, Too Thin*; as a murderously egomaniacal Broadway director in Chris Craddock's *The Critic*; and as a gay priest in love with a transsexual private eye in *Li'l Orphan Tranny*. A search for the ultimate exotic experience?

Or identity breakdown?

Maybe both.

The quest for identity has lured Cuckow away from his home in Alberta many times. He left Calgary to study acting in New York City because, he confesses, "I didn't know Edmonton had such an amazing theatrical life. I auditioned for a school in L.A. and one in New York…both said yes. New York seemed like the more exotic experience."

Upons graduating from the NYC American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Cuckow started exploring Europe, falling in love with all of it, particularly Spain. "The men! Everybody's beautiful there. No one seems to get old," he enthuses.

The quest for the exotic leads Cuckow towards wildly diverse roles. And Edmonton's new theatre season is no exception.

In Stewart Lemoine's *The Hothouse Prince*, Cuckow takes another step into the exotic with his portrayal of the genderless Asian Princess of the Eastern Isles, Xan-Xhu. "The role was originally performed by a woman," he says. "Xan-Xhu runs an opium den. She entertains the prince; she's one of his learning experiences." *The Hothouse Prince* opens at The Varscona Theatre on November 16.

In another identity breakdown, the night after *The Hothouse Prince* opens, Cuckow will debut his new QUEEr rap side project at the *Loud 'N' Queer Cabaret* (November 17 & 18), alongside the likes of Jeff Haslam, Andy Northrup and sizzling drag sensation, Paprika. The event, which is being directed by Workshop West's sparkling new artistic director Ron Jenkins, is an annual celebration of lesbigaytran writing and performing. A WW/Guys In Disguise coproduction, *Loud 'N'Queer* was where Cuckow first debuted as a writer. This year, he confounds expectations by donning the guise of fEMinEM, queer rap brat.

COCKSUCKAz is inspired by a rap recording experiment Cuckow and his buddy Chris Fassbender toyed with while hanging out in New York. Special Da'-Livery will be "breaking boundaries and busting beats," according to Cuckow, with a militant, in-your-face delivery that is sure to offend/titillate. A sample:

"you're lyin' in bed
with yo' legs behind yo' head
and i'm stickin' my tongue
where all the heteros dread
and i'm remembering yesterday,
all the words that you said,
you said "if i couldn't suck COCK,
then i'd rather be dead."

Anger or amusement? Maybe both. Cuckow's fEMinEM undercuts the pseudo-het bragging style that rap exploits and skewers it with explicit homo-boy cockiness. In a genre where masculinity is the *raison d'être*, a name like that could get a guy pummelled into the urban asphalt. He shrugs off the implications, and conversation turns to the next gig.

What's the inspiration for all of these side-projects?

"I got to Edmonton and just saw everybody doing it," he offers, referring to the spirit of entrepreneurial artistic independence in this town. "Everybody was self-producing. Nobody waited around to get hired, they just created their own work." In that spirit, Cuckow and Fassbender are producing *Suburbia*, a tension-filled modern tragedy at The New City Suburbs in January.

In preparing for his role as a racist homophobic skinhead in *Suburbia*, Cuckow has been forced to face his own issues with the concept of "masculinity."

"It's affecting my personal life," he reveals. "I've been watching typical het-male behaviour. So much of it is pure anger. There's no room for any kind of sentimentality—it's viewed as feminine. I guess I'm dealing with my own baggage, the big question of what it is to be a man."

Many of these issues are making their way into his solo work as well. *Stand Up Homo* is Cuckow's one-man show-in-progress, which saw its first light at 1998's *Loud 'N' Queer Cabaret*. The author describes it as "identity breakdown." In a series of "homologues," Cuckow explores his identity, sexuality and manhood, stand-up-comedy-style.

Not unlike his theatrical hero, Toronto performance/writer/superstar Daniel MacIvor, Cuckow sees himself, ultimately, as independent, self-producing and in charge of his own career. The identity may be in constant flux, but the mission is unwaverings: to challenge oneself continually, and accept no limitations.

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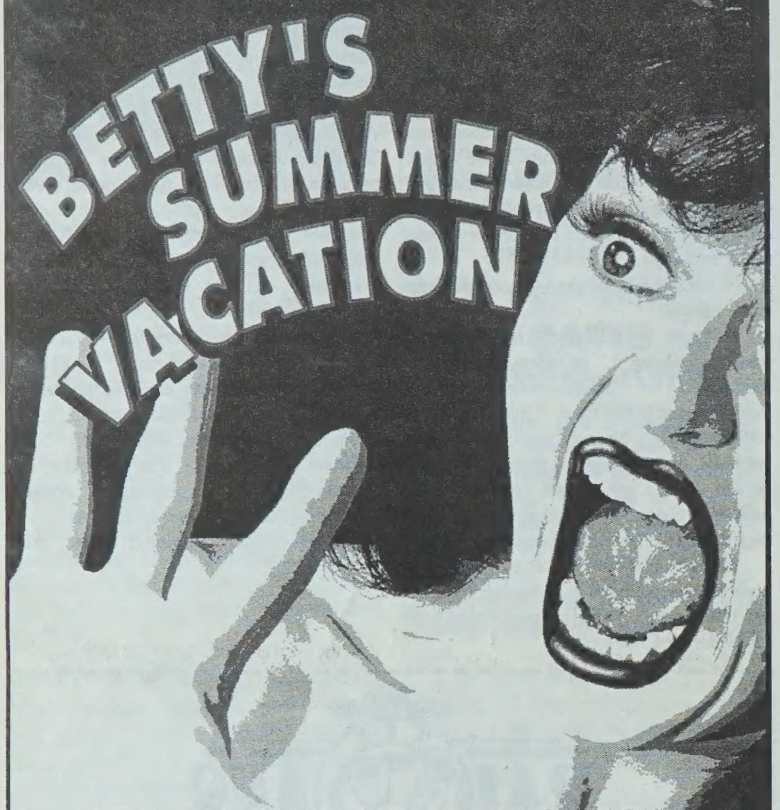

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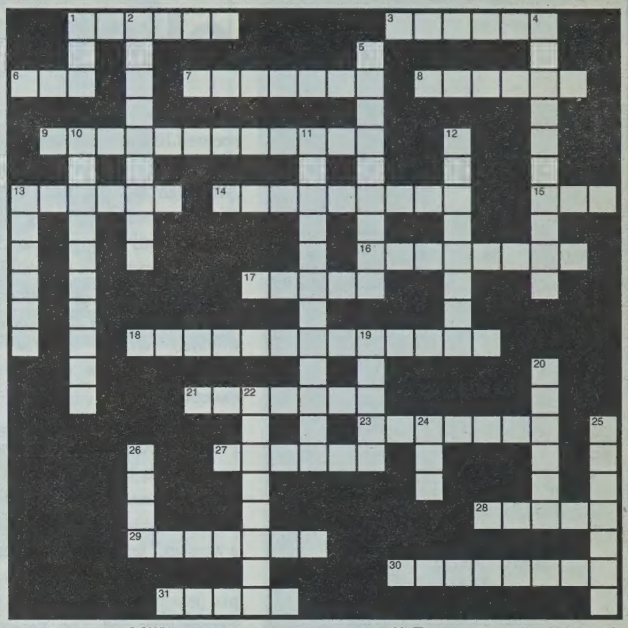
QUEERWORD

clues & words by Outlooks staff
answers on Page 37



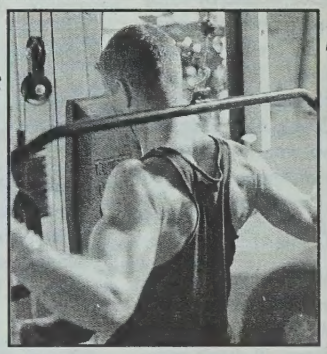
ACROSS

1. Canadian theatre personality: Brad____
3. San Francisco street favoured by leatherfolk in October
6. Vancouver politician: Dr. Hedy ____
7. Trudeau's signature bloom
8. Calgary toy drive: ____ for Kids
9. Trudeau re-patriated which document?
13. Thespians Lane or Cuckow
14. Musical Milton's last name
15. Rhymes with 'hex,' but much more bewitching
16. Pricey shoe designer for "Web'd" feet
17. The Divine Miss M on TV
18. Currently Mr.Day's least favourite beverage
21. He brings a healthy appetite to living: Renato ____
23. Calgary's being subbed for this Wyoming town in a new movie
27. Upcoming theatre production: *The Hothouse* ____
28. You can dress him up at www.normalbobsmith
29. "Martyred" gay youth: Matthew ____
30. Combination of liquors or HIV-management drugs
31. *Will & Grace*'s Sean P. or *South Park*'s Isaac

DOWN

1. Faeries do it; so do stewards
2. Alberta college where Milton S. teaches
4. Northern England setting of *Queer As Folk*
5. U.S. state or playwright Williams
10. Toronto play featuring drag performances
11. This issue's cover features an ____
12. Homeland of this month's business profile
13. Title town of new gay sit-com set in Ohio
19. Equality for Gays And Lesbians Everywhere
20. *Sex Workers Write About Their Clients: Tricks and* ____
22. According to the CA, this is one man & one woman
24. Musical style of COCKSUCKAz performance
25. Drag Craig or Jack's terrier
26. Familiar nickname for Ms Streisand

The Body You Always Dreamed Of...



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Rainbows on the airwaves

By Nancy Jo Cullen

Television, our window to the world according to the powers-that-be, would be difficult at any time to describe as "alternative." Its shows are marketed to millions of people at once and the melting pot smooths all edges, even Tony Soprano's. Still, there's nothing more heady than discovering a new show with a queer on it. We run to our sets and watch with great excitement in hopes of catching some reflection of our lives flash across the small screen.

Which brings me to our new television season, and the apparent "gay revolution" that's taking place on TV. This is according to the October 6 issue of *Entertainment Weekly*, which stated that "Gays, like blacks and single moms before them, are now allowed to be every bit as boring (or as smart

GAY SENSIBILITY?
YOU BETTE-CHA!
photo courtesy Global Television

or stupid or ruthless or whatever) as anybody else on TV." Hmmm, okay, I'll give them that much: there are boring and stupid gays on TV, just as there are boring and stupid blacks on TV—but, hey, at least the blacks are playing themselves.

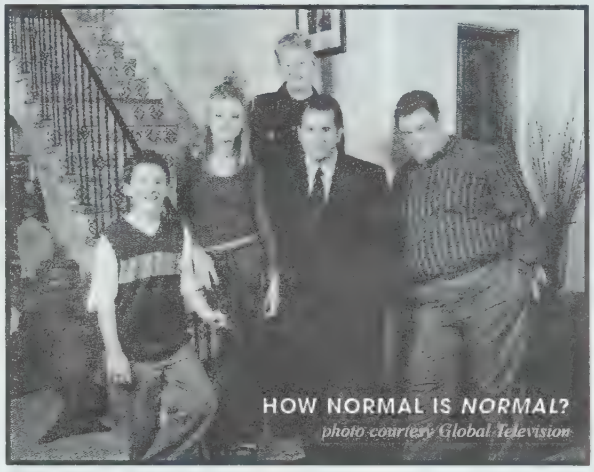
This season's much-hyped new "gay" show, *Normal, Ohio*, stars *Roseanne* alum John Goodman as William 'Butch' Gamble, "a beer-drinking, sports-loving Midwesterner who also happens to be gay." I don't want to imply that gay men can't be beer-drinking, sports-loving or even fat, I'm just having trouble wrapping my mind around the idea of John Goodman as a gay guy. Fred Flintstone comes out? Why couldn't they have cast Tom Selleck? I heard he was looking for a new TV show after his success on *Friends*. But while I may be dubious about *Normal, Ohio*, I'm hopeful about its potential (even if they had to scrap the first pilot and start over again). The show is produced by Bonnie and Terry Turner, creators of *3rd Rock From the Sun* and *That '70s Show*. Interestingly, *Normal, Ohio* also features Joely Fisher (Ellen's straight side-kick) as Butch's (straight) sister. I guess Fisher is working out some karma there... The show premiers November 1 on Global TV.

So how do the gay folk we've seen (so far) on TV this year fare? *Will & Grace*, the Emmy award-winning sit-com, features Eric McCormack (straight) as Will, and Sean Hayes (don't ask, it pisses him off) as Jack. We all love it don't we—because it's gay, it's on network TV and it's even *good*. Yes, Jack is absolutely over-the-top and I, for one, enjoy every single second of him. Is Sean Hayes gay? He prefers to be an actor first so people will judge the characters he plays and not him—what do *you* think?

I'll reserve my opinion on *Bette*. I need to see a few more episodes to be sure. Bette Midler is the quintessential "female" drag-queen and her first show on the small screen has, thus far, lived up to her campy style. While it's not exactly a "gay" show, she knows her audience, and there's a lot of gay humour. However, despite its star power, I don't expect *Bette* to last more than one season—perhaps the Divine Miss M is just too big for TV.

Then there are the second-stringers, the gay and lesbian co-stars. *Dark Angel*, a futuristic sci-fi set in Seattle, stars Jessica Alba as Max and features Valerie Rae Miller as Original Cindy, her radical dyke best-friend. *Dark Angel* was created by James Cameron and has the feel of his *Terminator* movies. It's bleak, there's lots of fighting, lots of night scenes and a general sense of 'America undone'. Nonetheless, everyone is breathtakingly beautiful and well dressed. Hopefully, we'll catch Original Cindy in bed with a fabulous babe before the season's out—but given that she seems to be allotted about five minutes per episode, I wouldn't hold my breath.

As for the returning shows, there's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*'s Willow, a perky, adolescent witch-dyke (interesting choice), and the shy, quiet, excruciatingly handsome Jack on *Dawson's Creek* (at age twenty-eight,

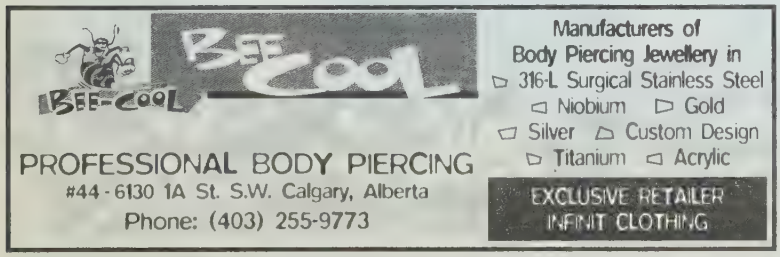

HOW NORMAL IS NORMAL?
photo courtesy Global Television

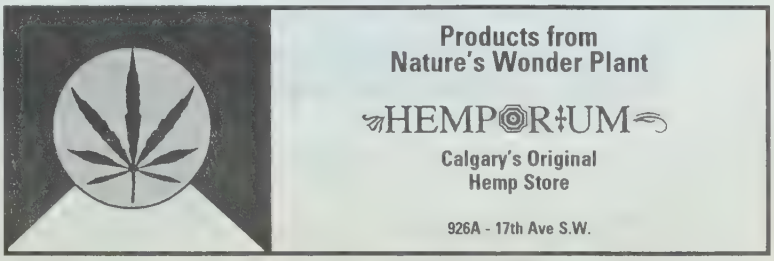
actor Kerr Smith faces a greater challenge playing 'teen' than gay). The stuffy Carter on *Spin City* is an exercise in anti-camp restraint. While they've had various gay plot-lines, none of these characters lead with their sexuality;rather homosexuality is another aspect of their lives; an almost invisible one at times. I think most of us want to get beyond coming out stories, but remember the gay boy on *My So-Called Life*? If you arrived at that show while channel surfing, you would have known he was gay, without extensive dialogue. Perhaps this had something to do with the fact that the character was played by out-out-out actor Wilson Cruz.

In addition, you can find gay characters on *Beggar's and Choosers*, *Sex and the City* and *NYPD Blue*. We have (had?) the lesbian moms on *Friends* (speaking as a *bona fide* lesbian mom, I've yet to meet lesbian moms *that* pretty and *that* skinny!) and, apparently, Dr. Kerry Weaver of *ER* is going to explore a relationship with a woman in this season. Let's face it, it was inevitable in TV-land: a lame woman who is *that* bitchy—she must've been a dyke for years!

Hopefully, Ellen DeGeneres started more than a trend. While her show may have got mired in the muck of changing the world, she opened doors for others to follow. Yes, we are seeing lots of gay folk on television, and apparently, there are more shows in the works by both network and pay TV. I'm still excited every time I see a gay character on TV, even a gay character played by John Goodman. Who knows, if John Goodman is successful in *Normal, Ohio*, maybe Tony Soprano will come out in his therapist's office in season four!

Still, it rankles me that actors who are homosexual still risk (or feel they do) their careers if they come out. Consequently, straight actors play gay characters and gay actors play straight characters (they're actors—it's allowed). In the end ,it all comes down to image: can the legions of fans still love the star when it comes out that he or she is queer? For the few who have come out to date the answer seems to be *yes* (although we haven't seen a blockbuster star come out yet). *Entertainment Weekly* is perhaps correct when it refers to the "gay TV revolution." However, if these developments in TV-land don't open the doors for actors themselves to come out, then what we have is a pretty groovy trend. But it's a little premature to call it a revolution.





IN THE NEWS

On September 27, 2000, the Pride Calgary Association held its annual general meeting to elect the new board of directors for the 2000-2001 term. As co-chair of the committee, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the following members, who will serve on the board for the upcoming year.

Co-chair One-year Term: Ashley Noble; Secretary: Rick Kennedy; Treasurer: A.K. Ross; Board Members at Large: Linda Craig, Edmund Oliverio, Steve Patton, Andrew Davidson, Al Roemer, Michael Leboldus, Cory Carr, Margaret Kadej, Carol Nelson.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of the new members to the board and wish them every success in their term in office. Pride Calgary association is a vibrant reflection of unity and diversity, and our intention this year is to unite the community and bring forth positive changes in the lives of all gay, lesbian and transgendered people in this great city. We are planning the best Pride celebration ever for the week of June 9 through June 17, 2001. Memberships to the organization can be purchased at Rainbow Pride Resource Centre or by calling Keith at 240-3485.

Pride Week 2001 will be an official kick-off event for the decade of a "Culture of Peace and Non-violence to Children" with the United Nations. For further information , please contact the following :

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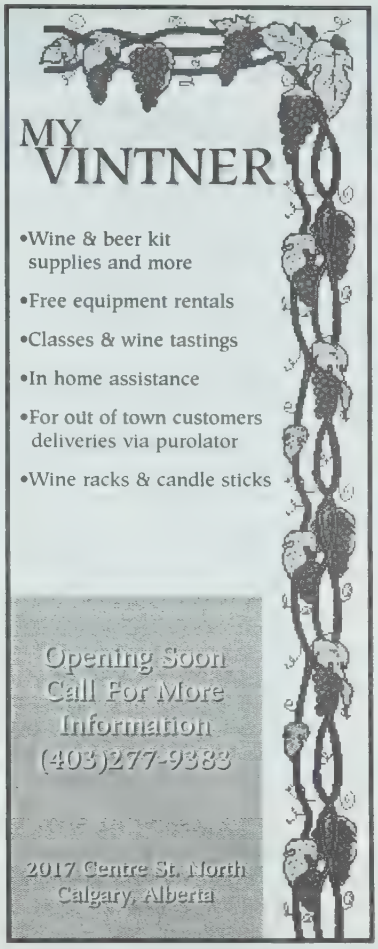


No election surprises

By Pat Johnson

Traditionally, governments keep election day secret until the prime minister visits the governor-general and asks the viceroy to dissolve Parliament. Such was not the case this year, however: the election call was the worst-kept secret in recent political history.

So indiscreet were the Liberals, in fact, that I arrived at work in my small office building a full week before the election was called, to find a sign at the front door, advertising "Liberal—Room 200." It didn't seem to concern them that their neighbour in Room 301 was a newspaper.

I donned my invisible reporter's hat and strutted into the office, which was a typical election headquarters, with strewn newspapers all over and dozens of telephones, but almost no decor whatsoever.

The charming personages in the office welcomed me warmly, even when they found out my profession. Nobody pretended they weren't in full election mode.

So the election began with a change of tradition. Let's see if it ends that way.

The Alliance truly has cast off much of the visceral disdain people had for it under Preston Manning. It's not so much that people didn't like Presto, I think, but that we couldn't picture him as prime minister. With Cromwell Day—love him or hate him or don't know him yet—you could certainly *see* him as prime minister. His articulateness is remarkable. He has charisma and, I'll say it again, by the standards of Canadian politics, he is a real hottie.

We might like to think that doesn't matter. But what was Trudeaumania if not some variation on those very themes? His ideas may be similar to—perhaps even more strident than—those of his predecessor Manning, but people can at least listen to his voice without being reminded of fingers on a chalkboard.

On gay issues, Day has comfortably avoided large-scale controversy so far, though I'm not sure how. His record on our concerns is appalling. But the landscape has changed. Recently, I spoke with a very intelligent, articulate young gay man who is an Alliance supporter because he has great concern about Canada's competitiveness in the international marketplace and the tendency of successful Canadians to head south.

When I questioned him as to how a proud, out, gay man could support a candidate with a record like Day's (not to mention some of his vocally anti-gay allies), his answer was enlightening.

Canada has passed most of the gay rights protections we have demanded. They have stopped short of gay marriage, which is something that doesn't matter to the young man I was speaking with. So, for him, the protections are in place and it's time to move on to other pressing economic topics.

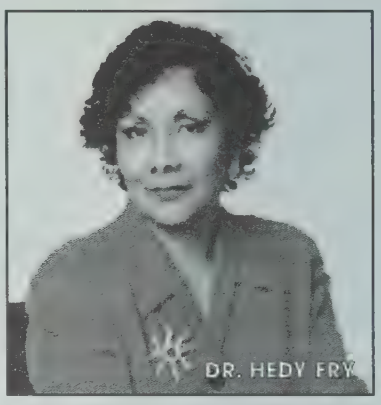
I could argue with that. In fact, I did. But he has just as many votes in this election as I do.

Unless there is a huge groundswell, however, it's hard to imagine where the Alliance could pick up enough support to form a government. The most optimistic scenario for the opposition is that the combined parties could keep the Liberals to a minority government. Somehow, though, I doubt it.

Still, the conversation I had with the Alliance supporter gave me pause. It is a form of that sort of post-feminist view that women can do anything and nobody can hold them down because of the progress they have made. That is a double-edged sword. It is a sign of strength and confidence. Unless, of course, there is a sustained backlash (think Germany, 1933).

In the meantime, there is a strange wrinkle in the gay rights discussion. The federal Liberals have implemented many aspects of same-sex benefits and protections gay activists have demanded. The cabinet did fold, however, at the threat of a backbench revolt, and wrote into a bill that marriage is defined as the union of a woman and a man. After all the progress made on that front, this one significant rebuke has led to a slightly amusing irony.

Ask an Alliance candidate what their view of gay marriage is, and they will likely say, "I agree with the Liberal government's definition, which is between a man and a woman." It's a clever way of pointing out that the Liberals fell short on that one, while dodging their own Ms. Grudyism on the issue.

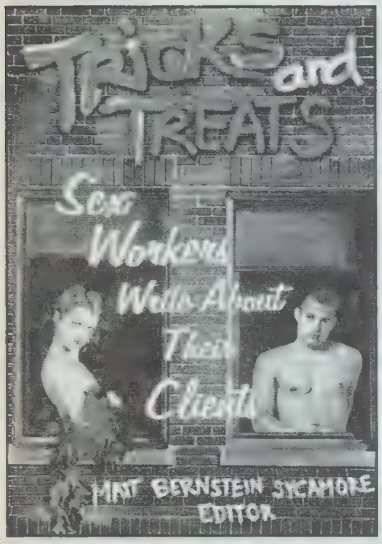


Here in British Columbia, we'll probably keep our reputation for political entertainment. We've got a few of the Alliance members who fit the stereotype of the Parliament Hillbilly, and we've got a couple of the MPs who are strong gay-rights advocates. Hedy Fry in Vancouver-Centre and—obviously—Svend Robinson in Burnaby-Willingdon, are among our greatest allies in Parliament. Both are likely to be re-elected, as will our favourite enemies. It should be noted that the Liberal party is not free of backwoods anti-gay MPs. Most of them seem to be from rural Ontario.

What gays are likely to get from this federal election is status quo. It doesn't seem like our issues will be at the top of the agenda, so we will probably vote for the candidate who offends us the least, as will most other Canadians.

What British Columbians are really looking forward to is our impending provincial election. Now *that* is going to be a gay-rights blowout. The NDP here has been the most activist pro-gay government in this country ever. To be cynical, this is partly because everytime a gay issue comes up, it splits the so-called Liberal party here (which is not very liberal at all), a group unaffiliated with their federal namesakes and seemingly controlled by Tories, Alliance members, Socred retreads and a few people who actually fit the description. With the B.C. Liberals way ahead in the polls, we stand the chance of going from the most gay-positive government in Canada to one that is deeply divided on basic issues of human rights. This will be one to watch.

REVIEWS



Review By David Crosson

***Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write About Their Clients;* Published by the Haworth Press.**

When I first encountered *Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write About Their Clients*, I figured it would be a case of "fasten your seatbelt—this is going to be a bumpy read." From all outward appearances, the book seems to promise the reader a journey down the road less traveled, though one still traversed by a surprising cross-section of people.

Editor Matt Bernstein Sycamore has gone to great lengths to assemble as diverse a chorus of voices as possible, within the parameters of the sex-trade industry. Contributing writers range from actual street workers and brothel denizens to more peripheral players such as a phone-sex operator and a woman who worked in a video store that rented porno flicks.

Broken into sections, the book deals with three specific areas: Tricks (fleeting, evocative accounts that echo their namesake 'transactions'), Treats (longer passages meant to be pondered, even savoured), and Tricks And Treats (a tension-filled balance of both).

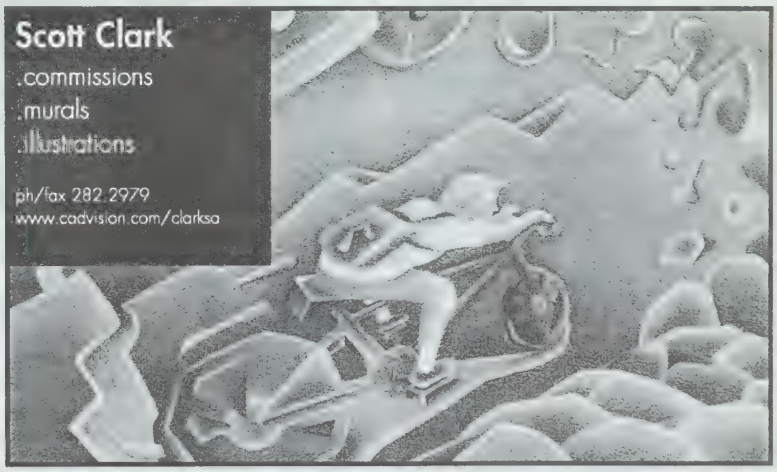
Jill Nagle's "Numbers," an account of how the author engaged in a threesome with some of L.A.'s finest gay hustlers, is sharp, funny and more than just a little bizarre. Humour, tempered with some of the collection's truest grit, can also be found in the candid "Clocking In," contributed by an individual identified only as 'Mariah.' Kowalski's "Joel" boasts a similar tone, if perhaps a bit heavier on the pathos.

One of the book's clear stand-outs, Carol Queen's "Toward a Taxonomy of Tricks," reads like a Master's thesis, so in-depth and insightful are its views on the world's oldest profession.

Oddly, Tricks and Treats' strength, as a well written, unified collection of voices and experiences, is also one of its greatest weaknesses. The exterior invites the reader to "Take a real-life look into the gritty world of sex workers!" However, many of the stories that unfold within feel as though they've been made as glossy as the covers that contain them. Several of the writers recount their experiences and indignities with such dispassionate objectivity that the emotions seem neutered, cauterized—a far cry from the raw and often uncomfortable tone of other, similar books. There's a sense that these diamonds would have been better served by maintaining a bit more "rough," a quality that sometimes shines more appreciably than well-polished facets.

A quick glance through the *Tricks and Treats* contributor bios reveals a disproportionate number of filmmakers, novelists, published writers and people with the letters MA and BFA appending their names.

It seems rather odd to point out that a book is too well written for its own good, and I don't for one second mean to imply this is a negative thing. What it is, though, is a distraction from what were perhaps the *real* stories and emotions, ones that perhaps needed an even more 'casual' forum in which to be heard. That said, *Tricks and Treats* is still a remarkably engaging book, honest and enlightening despite a polish that can, at times, quite easily be mistaken for glibness.



Crossing the border or the line?

AIDS CALGARY
awareness association

GLCSA

By Collin Smith
The Men's Project

In this election year, discussions invariably turn to politics. We can expect to hear a lot about this over the next few months. One of the issues being discussed by those following HIV is the issue of the virus and immigration policies. In fact, recently, the Canadian government has been looking into some very controversial legislation.

On September 21, 2000, PlanetOut reported that Canada's Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan has put forward a bill to make HIV and hepatitis-B testing mandatory for all prospective immigrants—and to exclude those who are HIV+ or chronic carriers of hepatitis B. Both viruses disproportionately affect gay men.

Reaction was swift, as many felt that this sort of blanket ban would be discriminatory. They would prefer the government make individual decisions balancing prospective immigrants' potential contributions against their possible health costs or risks.

However, the government's plan does not stop with immigrants. Caplan is also seeking stronger testing rules for those visiting Canada for more than six months, although she admitted that "We know that it is impossible to shrink-wrap our borders."

The argument is that HIV+ immigrants will put an economic and social burden on Canadians. "I believe that the important issue here is the health of Canadians," Caplan told reporters, and said her move to change immigrant testing requirements was inspired by recent outbreaks of malaria and an outbreak of tuberculosis earlier this year.

Health Canada's Dr. Ronald St. John has said that it wasn't actually known how many immigrants are HIV+ under current rules, but it was calculated at one per thousand, or about 200 per year. On CBC's *The National*, he estimated that each annual group of immigrants and refugees coming to Canada would generate thirty-seven new HIV infections per year if they were not screened. Screening would reduce that probability. Another estimate suggested that on average, each HIV+ immigrant would transmit the virus to at least one Canadian. Other experts estimated the lifetime cost of treatment for each person with HIV at about $200,000CDN. However, PlanetOut was quick to point out that a 1995 report by a panel of experts found that heart disease among immigrants was actually more costly to the Canadian health system. No legislation that would exclude candidates based on heart disease is in place.

Canadian AIDS-HIV Legal Network spokesperson Ralf Jurgens told *The Calgary Herald* recently that there is no public health justification for mandatory testing of immigrants, and that this is an official position of the United Nations. "We don't test all Canadians for HIV," he said. "The simple reason for that is that HIV is not easily transmissible. It is only transmitted through sexual contact or the sharing of injection equipment."

University of Toronto Public Health Specialist Dr. Robert Remis added on *The National* that "We don't screen for the likelihood of developing breast cancer or heart disease or any other medical condition, so [the legislation] would establish a precedent."

Some people think that this kind of policy could be seen as racist or homophobic. Due to the high rates of HIV infection in African countries, a ban like this could effectively keep populations of colour out of Canada. Also, due to the higher infection rates among gay men in parts of the world like Europe, Australia and the United States, a policy like this could, in effect, keep gay men out of Canada.

This is an issue that is not isolated to Canadian politics. New Zealand's last immigration minister was ready to institute a similar plan, but it was scrapped under the new government after national elections. Although there had been a high-profile case there of an immigrant male with AIDS who had engaged in unprotected sex with a series of women, it was pointed out by AIDS activists, health professionals and human rights groups that New Zealanders were much more likely to be infected through contact with each other than with immigrants.

Australia has mandatory screening of immigrants for HIV but does not necessarily deny entry to those who test positive. The U.S. and Singapore have mandatory testing not only for potential immigrants but also for visitors, and routinely exclude people infected with HIV. Therefore, it is very difficult for an HIV+ person to enter the U.S. for just a visit, making visiting family and friend south of the border practically impossible without lying or hiding one's HIV status. No European country has mandatory AIDS testing.

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network has stated that, "The public statements made on September 20, 2000, by officials from both Health Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada have portrayed persons living with HIV/AIDS as vectors of disease and potential dangers to Canadians. They have added to the climate of stigma and discrimination that persons living with HIV/AIDS already face in Canada. In addition, they have heavily stigmatized all immigrants, and created the misleading public impression that HIV/AIDS is a problem that does not concern all Canadians, but is an imported problem and one that can be addressed by exclusion, rather than by sound prevention efforts and compassion."

Do you agree? They are looking for your support. For more information about this issue and an opportunity to write your MP, you can check out their website at **www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/immigration.htm**.

On the Canadian Alliance website, Alliance Immigration Critic Inky Mark says the threat of the AIDS virus is nothing new, and the government has failed to protect the health of all Canadians by not acting sooner. In 1994, the Reform Party raised a motion in the House to implement this exact ban. The Liberal government voted it down. According to their own website, The Canadian Alliance is very enthusiastic about keeping the aforementioned individuals out of the country.

What do you think? As with all our hot topics, we want to know how you feel about this issue. Send your comments to mensproject@hotmail.com, and we will print some in an upcoming issue. Or you can leave us a message by calling Extensions at 777-9499. Our code is 2016. You can leave a message by pressing 8. We would love to hear from you.

4Play Coming Soon

In recognition of AIDS Awareness Week, Rooks Bar and Beanery is proud to present 4Play: a night of music and entertainment to fight AIDS. On November 25, Rooks will host 4Play to raise money for The Men's Project and AIDS Calgary's Youthxchange Program. All the money raised will go towards these HIV prevention programs.

The entertainment for the night includes local entertainers Trevor Day, Janine Karsh, the band Salinger, belly dancers and more. Cover is only $5 at the door and the event is open to all men and women over eighteen years of age. There will also be a chance to win prizes. Doors open at 8pm and capacity is limited so show up early. Come out to have a great time while supporting these worthwhile causes.

As many of you may know, the Men's Project provides HIV/AIDS education and prevention to gay and bisexual men through peer support, workshops and outreach. Programs like the Men's Group and the free condom packs available at various locations throughout the city, are run by the Men's Project. The Men's Project is a partnership between AIDS Calgary and The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Association.

The Youthxchange Program provides HIV/AIDS education and outreach to youth especially street involved youth. Youthxchange workers and volunteers undertake outreach in areas where youth hang out, providing vital information on the prevention of transmission of HIV. This year, the Youthxchange began an educational theatre project as well as printing the first issue of *Naked: a 'zine for and by youth*, which challenges the myths and stereotypes around HIV and AIDS.

For more information on these or any of the other programs AIDS Calgary offers, check out the website at **www.aidscalgary.org**. If you are interested in volunteering with the agency call 508-2500.

4Play is just one of the events coming up in AIDS Awareness Week, which runs at the end of November. For more information on what's happening that week, check out this month's *360°*, found in the centre section of *Outlooks* copies distributed in southern Alberta.

For more information on 4Play, call the Men's Project at 819-3775 or Rooks at 277-1922.

4Play November 25, 2000 8:00pm Rooks Bar and Beanery 112 16ave NW

What do you think of the immigration issue? Let us know at mensproject@hotmail.com

HOROSCOPE

By Charlene Lichtenstein

This political November will see the usual array of personal planets clustering in the autumnal signs of Scorpio and Sagittarius. We will also have some senior members entrenched in the stubborn, fixed signs of Taurus and Aquarius. (I *always* vote for term limits.) Let's get the vote out and declare victory on the 8th, when retro Mercury will go direct and deliver our message loud and queer.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)

Paging Dr. Freud: Proud Rams are in dire need of a consult. What is it that is holding you back from true affirmation and happiness? You have no excuse, sweetheart. After the 8th, Mercury will stamp into Scorpio and liberate your mind and body. Make the most of it, lucky Ram! By the end of the 23rd, you'll be hankering for grand-scale adventure. Go out in a blaze of glory. Or is it old glory?

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls will be more focused than usual on partnership issues this November. Play your hand while the Sun ambles through seductive Scorpio until mid-month. Put your cards on the table and see how the points add up. By the 23rd, you can lustily trump your partners ace and win the trick. (Don't be a dummy, I suggest that some Taureans should go for the rubber.)

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUN 21)

Gay Twins need to make an effort towards direct communication on the job. After the 8th, you'll be able to say what's on your mind to both superiors and subordinates. (Of course, you'll be diplomatic...) After the 23rd, if handled properly, forget the day-to-day grind and concentrate on more pressing partnership activities. Mars will hint that romance is in the air. Ouch! Do I smell something burning?

CANCER (JUN 22 - JUL 23)

If great minds think alike, then try to align yourself with great creative minds. Pink Crabs will be able to unleash their gay muse and create a masterpiece. Of course, if you fritter this energy on party pranks and cheap thrills, you'll only have yourself to blame. On the 23rd, all those artistic ideas will evaporate and you'll become just another cog in the corporate wheel. Axle grease anyone?

LEO (JUL 24 - AUG 23)

Use the time between the 8th and 23rd for quiet introspection and discussion between you and relatives. There were obviously problems in the past that are still bubbling under the surface and need to be expressed before they erupt. Good—proud Lions need't be repressed or closeted any longer. Live your life proudly and don't kowtow to anyone. (Ha! As if you ever could!)

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23)

Retrograde Mercury will fall into line on the 8th and enable you to do the necessary research, create a compelling strategy and focus your thoughts. Good timing, too, as Mars will amble into Libra on the 5th and pique your financial interest. Be sure to study the small print, babe; there will be plenty of time to fit the puzzle together after the 24th, but first you have to collect all the little pieces.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23)

All other things being equal, you will be inordinately concerned and focused on finances until the 23rd. Gay Libras may be able to use their immense powers of persuasion to negotiate a very beneficial monetary or business package for themselves now, so strike while the planetary energy is hot. After the 23rd, you'll gleefully reap what you've sown. Don't spend it all in one place...

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Retro Mercury will redirect on the 8th, as fabulous thoughts and insights come fast and furious. Queer Scorps will have trouble focusing on one particular topic for an extended period, but who cares? The idea is to accumulate all sorts of seemingly useless and frivolous ideas. You will be amazed at how you can build on these snippets and create a master plan.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 22)

Gay Archers love what they have to say, but have an audience of one to judge. Watch what you say before the 8th; anything you let drop will create a sinkhole... Or is it stinkhole? Secrets will be exposed and so will you, creating bruised feelings and confusion. While there are many things you might enjoy having held against you (no names, please), Sag nuclear bursts should not be among them.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20)

Queer Goats will feel like chameleons trying on different personal styles to see which one fits just right. Take heart, dear queer souls, you'll crawl before you walk. This Plutoneon regeneration will take several tries before the true lavender you emerges; in the meantime, seek affirming social groups and test some opinions. But don't go for consensus—test the limits to get a true read.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19)

What is the best way to harness and guide your professional success? Don't ask me, but if you wait until after the 8th, Mercury may just slip you the answers. Aqueerians will be able to do their best sleuthing before the 23rd, and their best application of knowledge after that. Who knows? By month's end you could be the main corporate dish—how tasty do you feel?

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)

If you're working towards a vacation, try to do so after the 8th, when Mercury will redirect and help you avoid nit-picky travel troubles. Pink Fish may be able to put the zip back into staid partnerships or seek greener pastures as Mars trolls into flirty, luscious Libra. Viva la Mars, lover! This randy planet will transform you into a steamy, spicy fish stew, rather than your usual serving as a 'cold poached.' Hurry up and eat!

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GLCSA

Gay & Lesbian Community Services Association

"Sunday Evening drop in for Women" November 15, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. Open discussion, come meet & greet Lesbians. Old Y 223 12th Ave, in the Common Room. November 29, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. Coping with Lonliness, Old Y 223 12th Ave, in the Common Room. More info call 234-8973.

The "Men's Drop-in" meets every Monday 7:00 p.m. upstairs at Money Pennies, 1742 10th Ave. S.W. The group "Inside out" for youth between 16 and 25 meets every Monday 7:00 p.m., common room, Old Y 223 12 Ave., S.W. The "Bisexual Networks" meets 1st Thursday of each month 7:30 p.m. In the GLCSA office. "Sheq" meets each Thursday, new group begins February 1, 2001, More info call 234-8973

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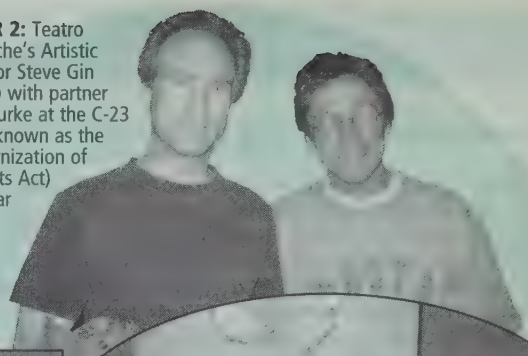
OUT & ABOUT In Calgary

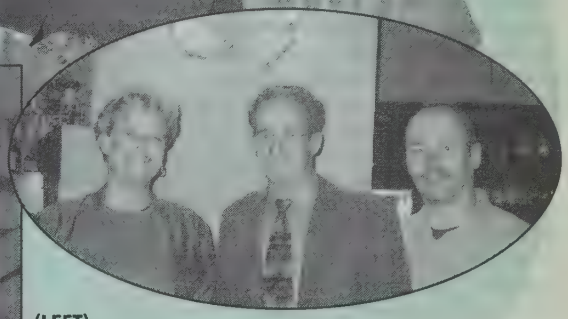
(LEFT) CN-MC: CNC Chair James Faulkner welcomes participants to a discussion of the Modernization of Benefits Act at Carbon (formerly Plush)



C FOR 2: Teatro Berdache's Artistic Director Steve Gin (Right) with partner Don Burke at the C-23 (now known as the Modernization of Benefits Act) seminar

SPEAKING OUT: Olympic Gold Medalist Mark Tewksbury regales the crowd at the launch of Positive Space

(LEFT) DISCUSSING A HANDFUL: Courtney Sebree's Gary Courtney addresses the crowd at the CNC event



(ABOVE) COMMUNITY NETWORKERS: (from Left) Colleen Hanna of AFP Wealth Managment, with Gary Courtney and James Faulkner at Carbon

(Below) A POSITIVE PROGRAM: Christopher McIntosh introduces Mark Tewksbury at the Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall at the Rozsa Centre

(Below) LOGO-GISTICS: The Positive Space campaign kicks off at the UofC

(Right) CABARET GIRLS: Rocky Mountain Singers Cabaret Fundraiser organizers Nancy Cullen (Left) and Penny Leggett

(Below) IN THE SPOTLIGHT: MC Glenn Stevenson warms up the crowd at the Colnel Belcher Auditorium for the RMS event

(Below) GETTING MOLL'D: Shelly (Left) helps Margaret work a 'gangster thing' at the ARGRA Hallowe'en Dance

(Below) THREE P'S: ARGRA's Pierre with Peter Waterfield, of LifeSounds Music, embrace the great pumpkin

(Above) CATCHER IN THE RHYTHM: Collin Smith (Left) and Rob Braile, AKA Salinger, perform at the RMS fundraiser

(Left) PORK FUTURES: Volunteers Brett Taylor (Left) and Alan Senneker keeping Small Change... Big Changes on everyone's mind at the ARGRA event

CLAIRVOYANT CAMEO: Having a (crystal) ball at the RMS cabaret

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Drama queen's paradise

By John Coulbourn

If you're headed this way, we're having a gay old time in Toronto theatres this fall—and it looks like its going to get even gayer. It all started with the opening of *When We Were Singing* on the mainstage of Buddies In Bad Times Theatre. Now, Buddies, as you may know, is Canada's largest gay theatre and, as such, has developed a reputation for work that is often in-your-face and confrontational.

With this import from Vancouver, however (written and composed by Dorothy Dittrich), Buddies has proven that they can sing in softer keys as well. An intimate little musical with four performers, *When We Were Singing* tells the story of four thirty-somethings, struggling to come to terms with the fact that they're having more than a bit of trouble finding the territory of happy-ever after. One's a gay man. One's a lesbian. One's an enthusiastic heterosexual and one is, well... uncommitted.

"THE JASONS" FROM OUTRAGEOUS

It's lovely work—witty and often elegantly understated—staged with a fair sheen by director David Oiye, who is also the reigning artistic director at Buddies.

Best of all, it signals a new direction in gay theatre, no longer content to simply examine our world but to examine it instead in a broader context.

Unfortunately, its run was limited, so the best bet for seeing it closer to home is if you actively lobby a theatre near you.

In today's economic climate, it's hard to imagine any artistic director turning up their nose at a musical that can be staged with four characters and a piano player, particularly when it's this good.

Whereas *When We Were Singing* seemed to be gone almost as soon as it had opened, Canadian Stage's production of Brad Fraser's latest—a musical adaptation of the Craig Russell

THOM ALLISON AS MAE WEST

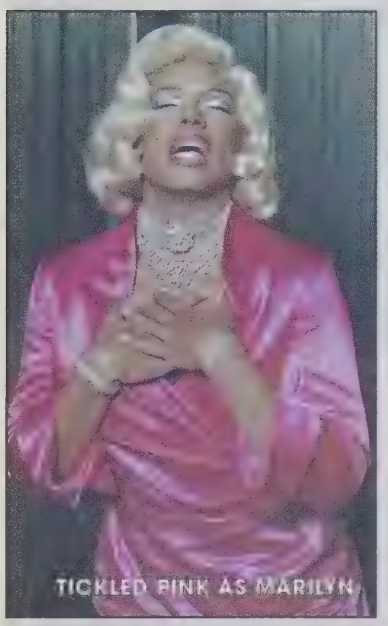
Continued on page 21

Continued from page 20

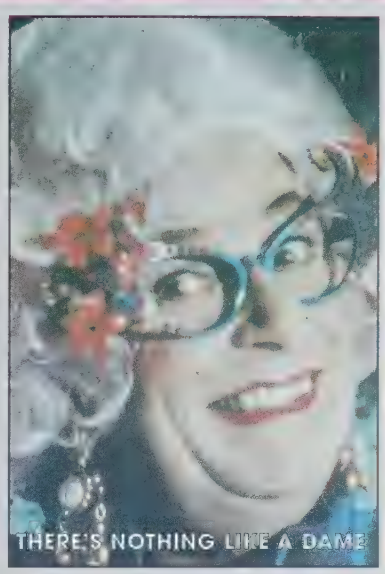
film *Outrageous*—has settled into a fairly lengthy run, announcing its first extension even before it opened.

It's slick, often entertaining, fare, featuring some knock-out performances from Thom Allison in the Russell role and Lorretta Bailey as his emotionally-troubled room-mate and confidante.

With music by Joey Miller, the evening is a qualified success, but a success nonetheless. Allison is so effective in a range of female impersonations—everybody from Judy Garland to Lady Day—that the show, when it's concentrating on him, fairly soars. But *Outrageous* is more than just "variety drag," and when it comes to telling the love story at its heart, Fraser


TICKLED PINK AS MARILYN

is not nearly so successful, either as a playwright or its director. Not surprisingly, when one considers his


THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A DAME

body of work, Fraser doesn't deal well with the emotional intimacy at the heart of the tale and, as a director, he tries to mask the deficiencies of the script with a high-octane combination of frenetic energy and overt sexuality, neither of which has a lot to do with the central relationship of the tale. Even though it is an entertaining evening of theatre, one can't help but feel, by the end of the performance, that telling the story was a secondary consideration for Fraser and his crew. At press time, *Outrageous* is slated to run until Nov. 18, and there's no word on another possible extension.

Telling a story has always been secondary to Barrie Humphries, particularly when he's done up as Dame Edna, the name dropping lilac-haired porch climber on which he has built a fortune. Fresh from a Broadway triumph, Humphries brings his *Dame Edna: The Royal Tour* to the Pantages Theatre in November, for a pre-Christmas run (opening Nov. 7). Consequently, he was in town a few days ago to drum up publicity.

And judging from the media's behaviour at his press conference, Dame Edna is going to take Hogtown by storm.

Dame Edna's appearance drew more than half-a-dozen TV cameras and print journalists by the score, all of them simply dying to surrender disbelief at the door and question the Dame on a variety of issues. Her answers—every last one of them a complete and utter fabrication, of course—were then dutifully, not to mention breathlessly, reported and now everybody seems to be lining up to get tickets to see a heterosexual man in a dress. Go figure.

***John Colbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the* Toronto Sun.**

"Solitude" - David Lorenz Winston

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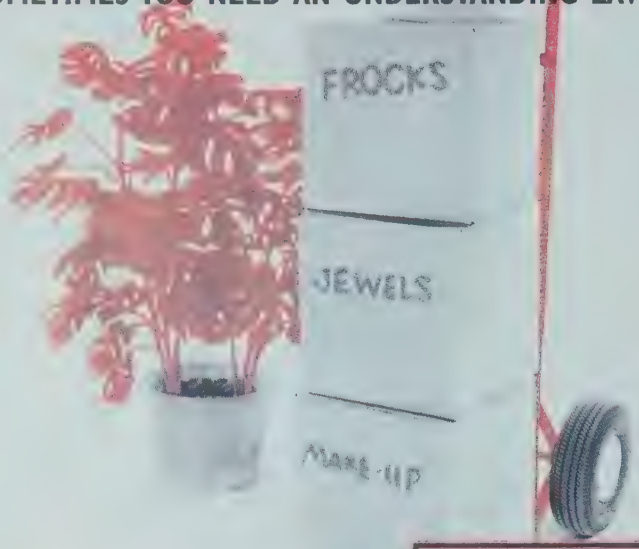

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IN THE NEWS

Think of it as a year's worth of inspiration. Just in time for the holiday season (thankfully, many of us are late shoppers) is Rainbow Men, a 365-day calendar with a colourful twist. For each month of the year, illustrations and quotes focus on the profiles and achievements of distinguished (predominantly) gay men from both the past and present. Men of note run the gamut from the obvious (Saint Sebastian, patron saint of gays) to the more obscure (Mark Antony who, it is rumoured, liked a bit of Caesar in his salad).

In addition, birthdays of the famous and near-famous who fit the lavender bill are dutifully noted throughout, along with a brief explanation for some of the lesser known.

Rainbow Men is also a calendar with heart: information numbers for both Canadian and American PFLAG chapters are listed, as is an itemized list of suggestions to help parents cope with a child's coming-out process.

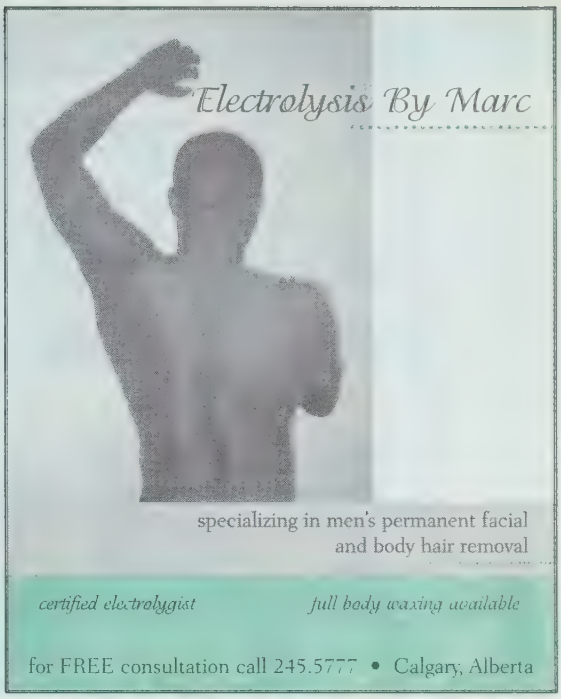
As well, the month of November is

dedicated to the memory of Anthony Paul McNaughton, the Vancouver man who lost his life when he intervened in a domestic dispute that took place in the coffee shop where he worked. The entry is closed out with a touching tribute written by Sergeant Gerry Pyke, one of the people who knelt by McNaughton in his final moments.

According to Calendar Buzz Inc., Rainbow Men features, "Over 200 heroes, award winners and accomplished men; their history and their hopes; their social context and acceptance," and is meant, "For young people struggling to cope with their passions… for families and friends who need help to understand." Given the narrow scope of gay role models who choose to be open about their sexuality, this is a very worthwhile effort, indeed .

Rainbow Men is the perfect dual-action stocking stuffer or host/ess gift, and will fulfill either role handily. It is available at Rainbow Pride Resource Centre in Calgary, Orlando Books in Edmonton and at Little Sisters in Vancouver. Copies will be available through the Outbooks website, with $1 from each sale going to the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation. It is also being sold online at www.rhona.com, syndicated relationship counsellor Rhona Raskin's website.

-By Outlooks *Staff*



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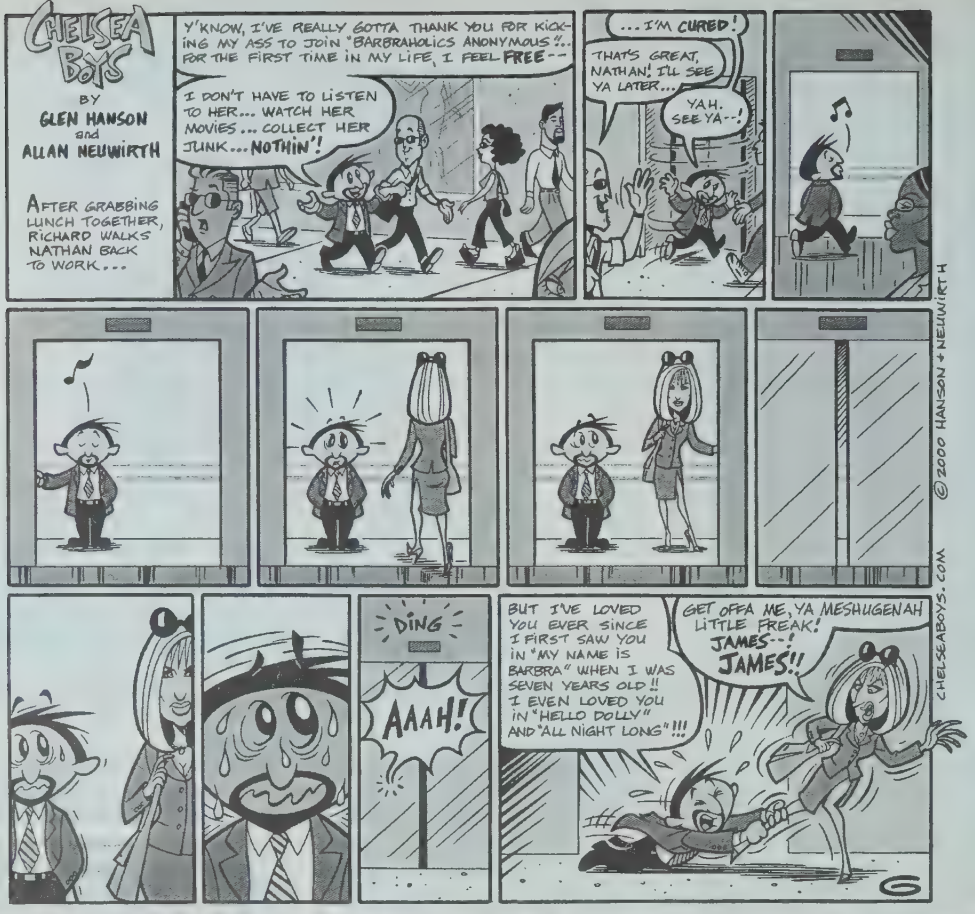

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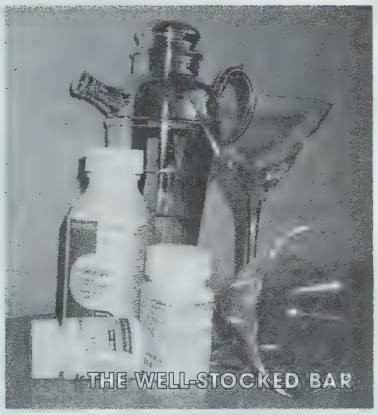
Cocktail chronicles

By Brian Huskins

There was a time for me when cocktail hour meant sitting back and enjoying a nice dry gin martini or spicy Caesar. This time was spent at a local watering hole, lounging around with friends on a Friday afternoon, laughing at the latest jokes and gossiping about who was sleeping with whom. That was a time long ago.

October 17th marked the tenth year since I tested positive for HIV. "Cocktail hour" is now very different, and I have three of them every day. My cocktail now consists of two large white capsules (Crixivan), two small blue and white capsules (AZT) and a white triangular tablet (3Tc). These served up, of course, on an empty stomach—no eating two hours before or one hour after, with a minimum of two litres of water every day.

One of the most important aspects of the treatment, for any person living with HIV, is compliance to the schedule of taking drugs. For me, it is always 7:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.. I have always disliked getting up early. The worst cocktail is at 7:00 a.m. each morning. Late lunches are my favourite, and the most inconvenient cocktail for me is



the one slated for 3:00 p.m., every afternoon. Bedtime has always been flexible for me, depending on the previous night's sleep, though the toughest cocktail to manage is 11:00 p.m., every night.

This regimen has caused changes in my day-to-day routine. I get up earlier, eat a more balanced diet and am very much aware of my body. I don't eat popcorn or snacks at the movies anymore, munch potato chips while watching television, 'do' late lunches or dinners because of the "take on an empty stomach" requirement. In the silver lining department, this is probably a good thing: I have lost fifty-five pounds since starting the medication, something I had difficulty doing pre-regimen. And now, the "real" cocktail hours are few and far between.

I consider myself lucky. This is my first cocktail combination. There are people I know who are on their fifth or sixth combination of any twenty (or more) different medications. Sadly, for my friends who have died of AIDS in the past few months, there were no new combinations. Sadder still, people are continuing to become infected, and the good medical news—which brings hope for me and others—feeds into a false sense of security that AIDS is not a serious illness, an illness that can still kill you.

HIV is not, and will never be, glamourous. What has changed for those of us who are already infected is the fact that we can live better lives, ones that have been extended by a few years. The inevitability of a premature death has not changed. Often, it can be even worse because the accumulated side effects of the cocktails (which give us those additional months or years) are added to the symptoms of the opportunistic infections that lead to death. Death may be delayed, but when it comes, it comes quickly—and the reality of the image is still the same as it was ten years ago.

My constant fear is that this cocktail will fail me, and I nervously wait for laboratory results every two months. Generally, regular visits to the lab for a series of blood tests are a part of the treatment. The people working at the lab know my face and are one 'constant' in my life.

About two weeks after this bi-monthly visit, is a trip to my specialist. They like to call themselves "HIV Specialists" or "Internal Medicine Specialists," but the reality is that they are infectious disease specialists. They are a constant reminder of the potential of the disease that lays lurking in the shadows of your body. Soon, you learn the language of HIV: things like viral load, cd4/cd8 counts, liver enzymes and all of the other items listed on the pages of results.

An increase in my "viral load" shows that the drug is failing. Elevated counts of my liver function indicates that one of my key organs is failing. Side effects—such as fatigue, diarrhea, nausea, headaches, peripheral nerve damage, fat redistribution and organ damage—can go hand-in-hand with the benefits of these "wonder drugs." There are many more, depending on your gender, age and general health. Always in the back of your mind is the question, "What might the next cocktail be and what impact would it have on my life?"

As a gay man who contracted HIV from unprotected anal intercourse, I have grown to expect no sympathy. To the general public and to many people in the gay community, I still represent the ultimate expression of "justified" homophobia. A single, sexually active pariah. That is not why I share this.

This is just a quick view into my day, to maybe take away some of the mistaken belief that HIV is not as serious as it used to be. To talk about the reality of my day, which is much easier for me than for most people who take these cocktails. Each individual's life is made more complex, depending on the recipe of the cocktail and their own challenges in daily life, challenges such as mental health, addictions and economic status.

And, by the way, besides cocktail hour—which has taken on new meaning—dating is an almost indescribable hassle! But that's another issue for another time...

AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT

A) Pick two days in the next week or so and set them aside as "cocktail days."
B) Get a few friends to join you.
C) Now find 12 red candies, 12 green candies and 4 white candies (please substitute any colour in these portions).
D) You now have your cocktail and here is your schedule:

No eating between	Time	Take....
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	7:00 a.m.	2 red, 2 green & 1 white
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	2 red, 2 green
9:00 p.m. - Midnight	11:00 p.m.	2 red, 2 green & 1 white

E) Drink at least 2 litres of water—no substitutions—each day.

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An appetite for living

By David Crosson

Perhaps the only thing more distinctive than his unmistakable laugh is Renato Almeida's approach to the creation of food. Correction: the act of *experiencing* food. Born in Portugal, this chef/caterer/bon vivant performs acts of gastronomic alchemy that cross international borders and defy mere trends. Now in his tenth year as a Calgary resident, Almeida is embarking on his latest project, "Acqua Verde: a culinary orchestra," which offers full-service social and corporate catering to those of discerning taste. *Outlooks* caught up with him recently over a lingering lunch on 17th Avenue.

Outlooks: How did it come to pass that you moved to Calgary?

Almeida: I moved here in the fall of 1990 from London. I was living in Portugal and travelling around in Europe when I decided to move to Canada.

Outlooks: Any reason why you specifically chose Calgary?

Almeida: Well, I was here before and made very good friends in two summer visits. I liked the lifestyle, the cleanliness of the city, the closeness of the mountains and rivers—living in nature. Now I understand why people take it for granted here; I sometimes forget how great it is now that I live here. It's very special. I try to live in a world where everything is fluffy and beautiful and special. And I think Calgary really stimulates me that way.

Outlooks: Tell me a bit about your background in food—were you cooking in Portugal?

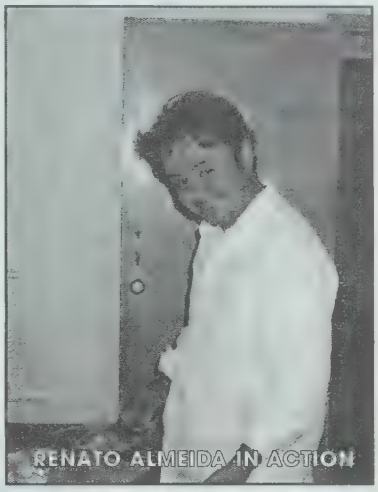
Almeida: I finished my chef training in Brazil, actually, and took a few courses in New York at the Culinary Institute of America. I had some connections in Lisbon through my friend Bruno. His father was the consul of Portugal in France, and that's how I wound up in Portugal for some of my extra training. It was a great thing to go back to my roots: my mom is Portuguese-Italian and my dad is Portuguese-Spanish. Being back in Portugal brought back all of these flavours and smells and feelings and sensations—all of the things that really inspire me.

Outlooks: Do you find it difficult, then, living in such a different culture here in Canada?

Almeida: Yes, perhaps. But on the other hand, I think that Canada is one of the very few places left in the world where you can still feel how young and fresh the country is. In training, if you will. The purity of people's spirits is exciting to me, they seem very open to things.

Outlooks: Do you think that not being surrounded by the flavours and smells of, say, Portugal or Brazil, you have to dig deeper for inspiration?

Almeida: Yes... actually, some of the nostalgia I have kept in my heart—the sight of the open market, the fresh fish, the fruit, the bread, everybody screaming—that is in my memory. I think the influence on people who come here from other lands remains strong. I had no problems, really, adapting. When I got here, I gained a lot of respect for North American cuisine. I like the practicality of the style, so now I "sew" together traditions and memories of my grandmother's techniques with this North American approach.



RENATO ALMEIDA IN ACTION

Outlooks: How much of what you do is sharing your own tastes versus acknowledging trends?

Almeida: Everything I do is sharing my own tastes; it's a part of me, a chunk of myself. I didn't just find things through my own beliefs, though, I had training in macrobiotics, classic Japanese, classic French. After that, I got very curious about the power of food and the healing aspects. Why not mix that with the gourmet point of view to create something that's appealing, that's yummy, that's delightful? This led me to explore kosher cuisine, and I think it's fabulous, that respect for the body—not polluting your body so your mind can be nice and crisp. Sometimes I indulge and eat things like lobster, which some people would not think is a good thing to put in your body. A special treat, here and there, I think is all right. I believe that if you eat everything in moderation, you can eat anything safely.

Outlooks: What is your take on "fusion" cuisine and the trends associated with it?

Almeida: Oh, I don't like that word! I think it limits things, makes them a style. It is about the name more than the food. My inspirations are obviously Portuguese, Mediterranean, classic Italian. I just mix things together based on my understanding of the ingredients and finding the balance in them. I always research food properties — and this goes back to macrobiotics— getting to understand the food's properties; the limitations and the potential. I'll mix Italian and Oriental; I'll mix African and Brazilian with French. Everything. I'm not afraid at all. I can make Cuban sushi and, for me, it's right. The energy goes through it and people respond. In the home, I think it should be the most inspired one in the house doing the cooking; it shouldn't just the left to the mother. I often don't repeat myself in menus for clients, because each one is a new approach or experience. I don't know what I would call my style.

Outlooks: Renato?

Almeida: [Laughs] Okay, Renato!

Outlooks: When you're involved with a party, what do you think the key to successful entertaining is?

Almeida: The most important focus is how happy the host or hostess is, and how secure they are about things being taken care of properly. When they offer to help I say, "No, honey, go have a bath, do some aromatherapy, soak it up, make yourself beautiful. Go away and come back as a guest of your own party." And I don't want them to do anything except dress up and enjoy themselves.

Outlooks: And what about people doing it for themselves?

Almeida: Be prepared, be confident. Have everything cleaned and ready a day in advance. Have everything done and out of the way and, again, relax and have the feeling of being a guest at your own party. Don't overwhelm yourself or try to take on more than you can handle.

Outlooks: When you are at home, do you eat as exotically as your clients or do you sometimes just say, "Screw it—I'm having Kraft Dinner!"?

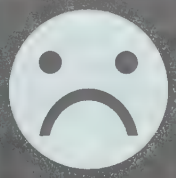
Almeida: I *do* have Kraft Dinner, sometimes, but I put in Portabello mushrooms and drizzle it with truffle oil! [Laughs] Accessorize, baby, accessorize! [Laughs]

Outlooks: If somebody told you that you were barred from having anything to do with food for the rest of your life, what do you think you would do?

Almeida: Hmmm, I would probably focus my attention on healing people. I like to see people happy, satisfied with themselves. I'm like a grandma that way, I'm never happy until everybody is tucked into bed with some talcum powder on their bum! [Laughs]

Outlooks: What can you tell me about your latest venture?

Almeida: Well, I got together with my friends Andrew and Christina Brooks—he is studying wine right now and she is a fabulous, wonderful hostess—and we decided to do something on our own. We're calling it Acqua Verde, a culinary orchestra and we will handle all aspects of catering. We're probably going to develop some sideline products as well—sauces, flavoured butters, frozen soups. We have a little cookbook on the way, too. So far, we have some very interesting clients and bookings. It will be full-service catering, but no one should come to us expecting "standard" anything. We will create everything from scratch, to make it all as divine as possible: presentation, flavours, drinks, flowers—even the way the staff is dressed. We want everything we do to make people happy.



"I frankly do not care how homosexuals choose to organize their lives, but to treat their unions as de facto marriages is downright silly. ... Not too many years ago, if anyone had suggested that homosexual couples living together under the same roof should be awarded the same social benefits as married people, they would have been laughed out of town. It would have been considered hilarious. Yet here we are. Is this progress? I doubt it."

-Lee Morrison, MP (Canadian Alliance, Cypress Hills-Grasslands)

Source: EGALE

Manchester: queer folk-fest

By Sean McLennan

I had only ever heard of Manchester in passing, really. Of course, I knew of *Queer As Folk* (and was intimately acquainted with the soundtrack) but since it hadn't yet appeared on North American TV, I had no idea where it was set. It was thus on a whim that I decided to stop there, intrigued by a brief note in my guidebook stating that it was "Northern England's Gay Mecca."

It was the first warm evening of spring and a Friday to boot. I was walking through downtown heading for the village and it seemed all of Manchester had come out for a party. The streets were resounding with whoops and cheers and laughter. Two young men tried to toss a friend into a fountain. Hedonism reigned, and it was contagious. I quickened my pace.

Even if the rainbows hadn't made it clear I had finally reached the outskirts of the Village, the huge monument erected by the city to honour the contributions of the Manchester gay and lesbian community would have. I was impressed with the status that they had clearly earned. From a block away you could hear the dull roar of jubilant voices that drowned out the sound of traffic. I finally stepped into the full glory of Canal Street. Every fag, dyke, queen and queer in Manchester (and probably for miles in every direction) must have been out this night, because the crowd that thronged the cobblestones for blocks could have matched any sporting event. Traffic was, needless to say, blocked in either direction, and you could barely see the street's namesake canal for the people lining its embankment.

The age range, fashion, lights, colours—even the fetishes—were overwhelming. I've never seen such diversity outside of a Pride parade. People flowed in and out of the caf-bars that lined the street opposite the canal, free from the constraints of cover charges and strict liquor laws. There was nothing to do but step into the current and allow myself to be enveloped by feelings of sheer liberation and acceptance.

The weather and time of year probably combined to make my visit to Canal Street somewhat exceptional. But it is true that the community in Manchester enjoys an amazing degree of visibility and acceptance. The Village rivals the Old Compton Street area of Soho in London in size, services and quality—even without considering that the population of Manchester is under 500,000, compared to London's millions. Certainly, the impression one gets is that Manchester's community is more cohesive. Seeing Manchester now, it's hard to believe that as recently as 1967 it was still illegal for two men to have sex, even in private.

Manchester also boasts the largest gay and lesbian health and community services charity in the UK, the Lesbian and Gay Foundation, an umbrella organization that has now unified a number of already existing groups, including Healthy Gay Manchester (HGM). Most cities have some sort of organization that fulfills the function of education and health protection, but HGM is truly a model of excellence. They have pushed everything they do one step further.

Not only do they provide the standard STD and AIDS information, but also tips on everything from racism in the gay community to how to deal with hangovers and daily stress. There are guides on how to deal with homophobia, and HGM runs street defense sessions throughout the year. They provide a two-part guide to safer cruising, describing everything from your legal rights to a step-by-step description of what to do in case of an arrest. And all this information is provided in casual colloquial English, making it less intimidating and more accessible.

Free condoms are reasonably easy to find in most cities. In Manchester, however, HGM makes freely available the Gay Man's Safer Sex Pack, an easily pocketed sachet with two condoms and a packet of lube (recognizing that a leading cause of condom breakage is a lack of adequate lubrication).

And perhaps most telling of Manchester's homo-friendly attitudes: no more furtive searching online or in GLBT guidebooks for local starting points to get acquainted with the area. You can find HGM's *Lesbian and Gay Guide to Greater Manchester* at the all the tourist information centres. Manchester's a good place to be gay!

Not found in North America, one of the most delightful venues that Britain has to offer is the caf-bar. Appropriately hyphenated, these establishments live double lives, providing the same street with very different atmospheres. By day, Canal Street is a classic picture of European leisure, lined with open-fronted street cafs and diners lingering over coffee and late lunch. At night, however, the tables and chairs disappear and the cafs morph.

Space is cleared for dance floors, the music volume goes up and the spirits start to flow. With no cover charge, it's easy to explore up and down the street, checking out the unique character of each location. Since many are open twenty-four hours, the pleasure never really stops.

The Village has more than its share of more familiar clubs, too, and truly enough variety to satisfy anyone. Be prepared for a huge variation in cover charge, everything from around $2CDN to

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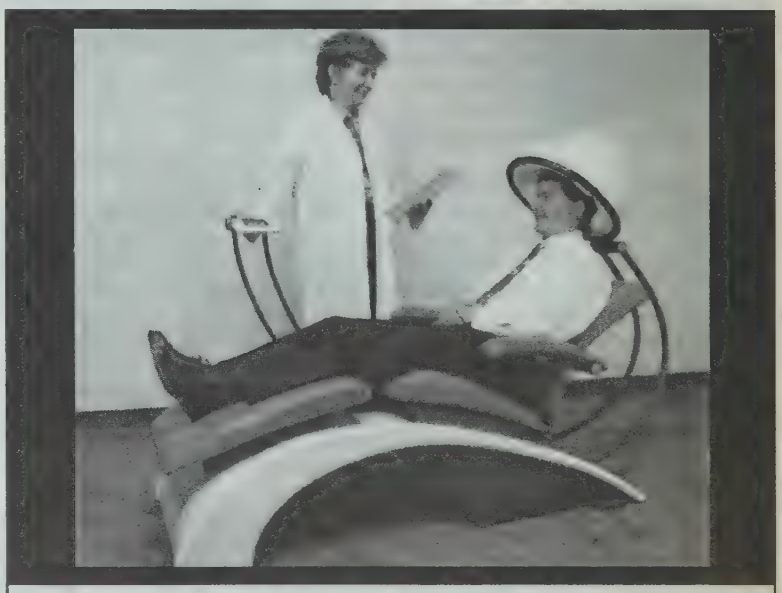

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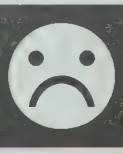


"If this Bill passes, the institution of marriage will be the next casualty of gay and lesbian lobby groups and weak-kneed politicians. In the 1950s, buggery was a criminal offence, now it's a requirement to receive benefits from the federal government."

-Garry Breitkreuz, MP (Canadian Alliance, Yellowhead)

Source: EGALE

Continued from page 28

$15CDN. Many also require membership, although sometimes if you mention you're from out of town, they'll wave the membership fee. Application at the door is easy and varies in complexity—one place even required applicants to sign an affidavit confirming their homosexuality!

CRUZ 101—OR IS IT "BABYLON"?

CRUZ 101 is the largest gay dance club and possibly the model for *Queer As Folk*'s "Babylon." It boasts two floors and five bars and more boys than anyone can handle. Guaranteed to be packed later on in the night, if you love the sensory overload of hundreds of bodies gyrating to music that fills your head and bass that massages your innards, this is *the* place to be. Black seems to be the uniform of choice.

Lesbi-girls will likely want to check out Climax, reportedly the "best women-only night club in the UK," if they make it to Manchester (sorry, I can only provide a second-hand review—they wouldn't let me in!).

For something entirely different, I'd recommend the Hollywood Showbar, a slightly more intimate club with occasional live drag entertainment and a silver-sequined, drop-dead gorgeous DJ-Queen spinning everything from Dolly Parton to Britney Spears.

From piano bars and casual pubs to industrial and rave clubs, it's all there within walking distance. Make your first stop the tourist bureau, to pick up the aforementioned HGM guide for a comprehensive listing and maps. If you time your trip right, you could also take in one of the seasonal events: the Manchester Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, or the biannual Gay and Lesbian International Arts Festival staged by Queer Up North (another Manchester organization).

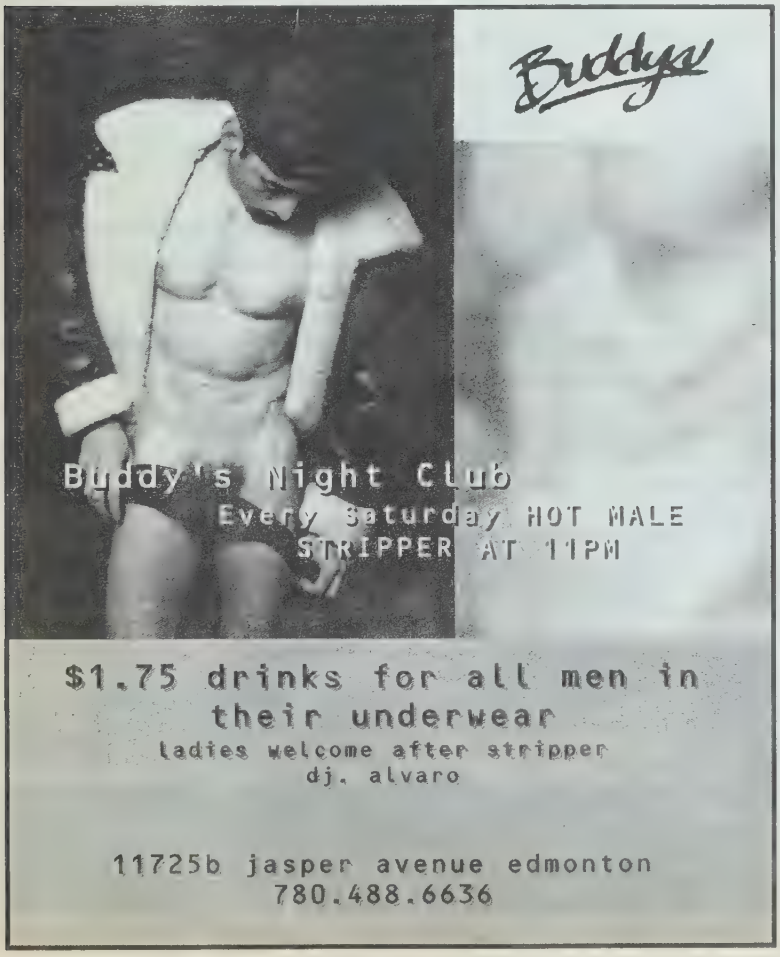
You've likely heard of the ungodly cost of accommodation in the UK and, well, I can't say much to ease your fears beyond, "at least it's not London!" Fortunately, Britain has an excellent system of youth hostels that are open to any age, and they offer everything from single to ten-person rooms. The YHA hostel in Manchester (right on the edge of downtown, about twenty minutes from the Village on foot) is touted as one of the best in the world and rings in at about $30-$40CDN a night. There are a couple of smaller, slightly less expensive hostels not quite as conveniently located and the University of Manchester lets cheaper residence rooms when school's out. A mid-range hotel or B&B runs about $100-$120CDN a night.

Should (for some unimaginable reason!) you get bored with the Village, the rest of Manchester is also worth checking out. It has recently been undergoing a renaissance of sorts, as funds have been poured into downtown renewal. Deansgate offers an international selection of restaurants and designer shops; the "Curry Mile" in Rusholme serves up the finest of Indian cuisine and culture; and the obligatory Chinatown provides an authentic taste of the Orient. For the best in day-time leisure, you won't want to miss Castlefield and its award-winning architecture, canal walks and local festivals.

Expanding outward, Manchester is but a stone's throw from Liverpool, home of the Beatles, and makes a perfect stopping point on the way from London to Scotland.

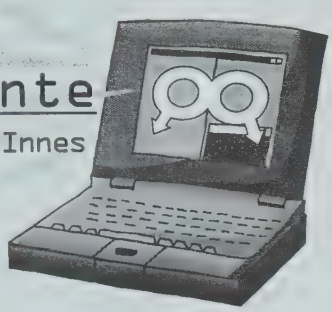
Whatever your tastes or plans, if you're gay or lesbian, missing Manchester would be like going to London and missing Big Ben. It's a must on any British travel itinerary.

Images in this story courtesy of the *Queer As Folk* website (www.queerasfolk.org.uk)



the webutante

by Darren McInnes



She is the Scorsese of smut! The doyenne of depravity! The mayor of Sodom & Gomorrah! How many Gen-Xers out there came of age curled up in some curtains-drawn room, watching the freakishly athletic shenanigans of some Ritalin-raised hunks directed by none other than larger-than-life drag queen Chi-Chi LaRue? Now the *grande dame* of flesh-peddling (Profiled in *Outlooks,* October 2000) has her own web site, **www.chichilarue.com**. Check out "Chi Chi TV," which features "hours and hours of high

quality streaming video." From oral to anal (retentive or otherwise), it's all here in drooling, dripping detail. To really get the dirt, you need to purchase a membership, natch, but for those XXX-addicts out there who follow the lives of these sexual renegades like my grandma follows Bo and Hope, the price is undoubtedly worth it.

Anyone who names his site **www.normalbobsmith.com** must be anything but. In fact, the site doesn't have much going for it initially. There's the bizarre tale of "Crisis," the boardgame bobsmith invented, which was intended, but failed to, make him as rich and famous as those nerds that brought us Trivial Pursuit. Once you click on "Dress up Jesus," however, you enter an entirely new level of entertainment. Faced with a digital image of said savior and several fabulous costumes, you have the delicious task of putting a little pashmina into the pontificator's life. Just like your old cut-out Barbies, you can doll up Earth's first divine birth in bunny slippers, daisy duke shorts and devilish red tights with matching horned helmet! Of course, such fun doesn't come without a price as bobsmith has discovered with some not-so-nice feedback to his Christian catwalk. "You must be a f***in' Jew" wrote one irate surfer. Oh lighten up you mentally deficient bigot. I'm sure Jesus had a great sense of humour and, were he around today, certainly wouldn't waste his time spreading hate-mongering messages. Twit.

A friend recently sent me an e-mail entitled, "DUCK, DUCK, OPENLY GAY GOOSE!" Ever so curious, I hyper-linked to the website and found myself at **www.icebox.com**, where several witty, live-action cartoons offer sweet relief when you just can't bear to watch Lisa outsmart Homer for the seventh time on Fox. My queer brethren will want to start with Icebox's "Queer Duck: He's here, he's queer, he's a duck—and he couldn't be prouder." Along with his friends, Openly Gator, Bi Polar Bear and Oscar Wildcat, these fabulous furry creatures live their gay lives as freely as a zebra defecates in front of spectators at the zoo. The last segment is the best: Queer Duck decides to tell his ma and pa that he skates on the other side of the pond with "heated" results.

Ever wonder how Drew Carey could dress so badly for someone with so much money? Part of the blame rests squarely on George Esquivel, whose outrageously overpriced shoes frequently adorn the plump comedian. An atrocious cross of Doc Marten bulkiness with tired retro-Fifties "zaniness," these clunkers also protect the well-heeled soles of Kevin-yawn-Costner and Gwen she-should-know-better Stefani. View the horror at **www.esquivelshoes.com** and pick from $300 predetermined styles or shell out $400-$1,000 for custom combinations of colors and leathers. Mr. Esquivel works with real alligator—quick, someone call Chrissie Hynde and her PETA posse! Finally, there's something *worth* tossing paint on.

Much more fun shopping can be had at **www.topdrawers.com**—an undergear site for men based out of Vancouver, Canada. I've always questioned the wisdom and practicality of shopping for clothing on-line, but underwear makes mucho sense. Once you know your favorite brand and size, having your sexy underthings delivered to your door seems terribly convenient. A collection of the site's favorite advertising images greets customers on the home page and announces two things. 1) This site is gay, and 2) you might need a bottle of K-Y and a towel to make it to the shopping cart page. After drooling over Antonio Sabato Jr. and pre-thespian Marky Mark, peruse the wares of underwear specialists both fabulous (2(x)ist) and atrocious (Fagioni, whose stomach-turning designs makes one wonder whether the owners of the company chose that name out of contempt for the gay community). American readers will be pleased to know all

prices are quoted in Canadian dollars, the new North American peso!

You won't find the marvelous Jeanne Beker at **www.fashionfile.com**, but you will find the most extensive, helpful site designed for those in the beauty biz. Zane O'Donnell, CEO of Fashionfile.com, is a former moving mannequin himself and launched the site in February of this year as a means of bringing together models, photographers, fashion designers and stylists into a single portal. Coincidentally, for fashion-hags and hangers-on, it's not a bad place to cruise around, either. When you get tired of screening the countless portfolios of impossibly beautiful just-barely-men, there are also some interesting editorial bits. Find out why the ladies have abandoned their bulimic ways in favour of full-figured lips, tits and hips, while the men have gone all

Continued on page 31

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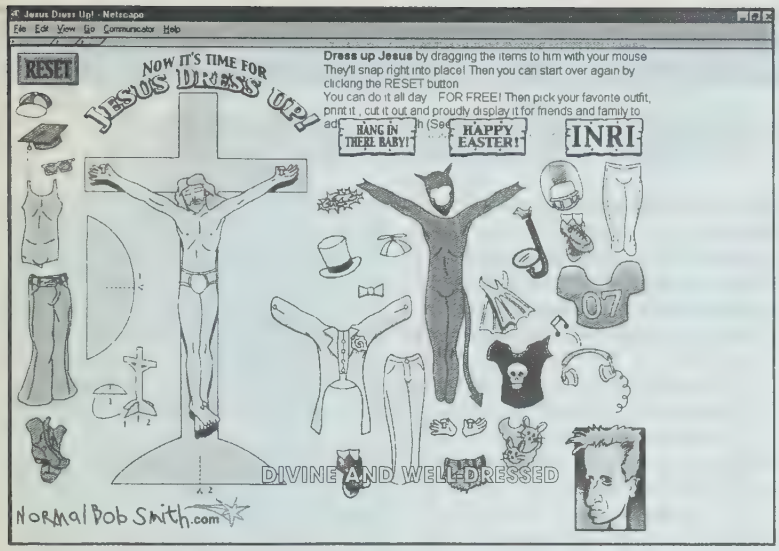

Continued from page 30

soft, boyish and dewy-eyed. Top it off with a brief rundown of Galliano's latest collection of biker jackets and jogging suits for his white trash hommage at Dior.

Finally this month, if you haven't picked it up yet, Kylie Minogue's new album, *Light Years*, is her best yet. Miss Minogue recently scored her first number one single in ten years in the UK with the delightful pop-romp Spinning Around, penned by none other than Paula Abdul (Kylie's last #1 was 1990's Tears on My Pillow.) *Light Years* is a non-stop disco treat, featuring Your Disco Needs You, a song so gay it makes the Village People sound like the Cocteau Twins. To learn more about the Aussie Madonna, enter www.kylie.com, the official website of the kewpie diva. It's light on news, but it links to unofficial and more extensive on-line shrines that provide a wealth of saucy pics and tidbits.

Finally this month, I have a timely travel tip that I picked up while surfing this weekend. Planning a vacation to sunny Kazakhstan? If so, you'll be pleased as punch to hear that the first-ever gay club has opened in that kicky corner of eastern Europe. The managers of the gay club have told an Interfax-Kazakhstan agency that there are over 200 out gay men and lesbians living in Aktobe, the site of the bar. With a population of 700,000, that works out to .028%. My, but this is a queer little planet, indeed. Happy surfing.

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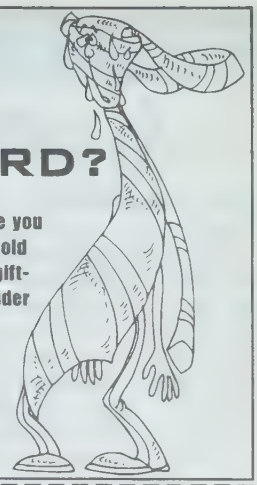

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A gay old time on the silver screen

By Benjamin Peters

Hollywood is promising a gay old time at the theatres this fall and holiday season, with queer characters understandably popping up in such films as Christopher Guest's riotous dog spoof *Best In Show*, and John Waters' movie parody *Cecil B. Demented*. That's wholly expected, because both have traditionally used gay characters in their films. Not so expected, recently, were the well-handled gay characters in the charming British film *Billy Elliot*, and Michael Douglas' comedy *Wonder Boys*, in which Tobey Maguire and Robert Downey Jr. play lovers.

DEAN CAIN—HE'S SUPER!
Photo by: Mimi Craven

But no film this fall, past or present, turned the camera on gay lifestyles in the same uncompromising and uplifting manner as *The Broken Hearts Club*.

Greg Berlanti's film about a group of 'sisters' in West Hollywood is poignant, insightful and very, very funny.

Berlanti is a twenty-eight-year-old wiz kid and one of the executive producers on the hit TV show *Dawson's Creek*, which has dealt candidly and sensitively with gay issues.

The director says he set out to write a gay film that was, "about romance and not about sex. I wanted to write a film about gay men that was more the way I knew them to be, rather than how they have tended to be portrayed in films and TV."

Berlanti's film focuses on Dennis (Timothy Olyphant), a West Hollywood photographer who is approaching his twenty-eighth birthday and the group of friends who will celebrate it with him. He confides to his extended family that he can't remember when he first realized he was gay, but he remembers it was when he met this close support group that he knew it was okay to be so.

Dennis faces an identity problem because his roommate is a handsome actor and local stud named Cole, a role played by Dean Cain (who starred as TV's Clark Kent/Superman on *Lois & Clark* and as Rick on *Beverly Hills 90210*). It's through this character that Berlanti explores gay men's obsession with looks.

Dennis and Cole's other friends have to learn that not everyone is beautiful. Some people are just gay and ordinary, and often those gay men are the strongest.

Cain insists he had no hesitations about playing a gay man.

"It's a great story that's well written," he says of his turn at 'playing gay.' "In one scene I have to kiss another man. I think my mom had hesitations with that!"

Like the other straight actors playing gay characters, Cain had to rely on Berlanti to let him know if they were getting "too gay."

"Sometimes we'd get too nelly and Greg would just tell us to tone it down," Cain recalls

The opposite also happened as Zach Graff (who plays the 'workout queen') remembers.

"Sometimes Greg would tell me to 'gayify' it because I looked like a straight guy from the East Village. He'd tell me when I needed to turn up my gay volume," he laughs.

Andrew Keegan (best known for his role as an unmarried teen father on *Seventh Heaven*) plays Kevin, the newest member of the group, who is struggling to come out of the closet.

"I think the gay community will enjoy the fact that there is a quality gay movie for all of America to watch and that the straight community will better understand the lifestyle," he says.

The producers of *The Broken Hearts Club* are hoping the same thing. They want the film to cross over into the mainstream market and not be dumped into gay ghetto cinemas.

JOHN MAHONEY AS JACK
Photo by: Cindy Kelleher

The only character Berlanti wrote with an actor in mind was Jack, the older man who owns the club that friends frequent.

He also manages their baseball team and acts as a surrogate father.

Berlanti wrote the character for John Mahoney, who plays Marty Crane on TV's multi-Emmy-winning *Frasier*. Mahoney says sexuality was not an issue for him in playing Jack.

"Jack and Marty Crane are both father figures," he says. "They are basically very ordinary, no-nonsense people with sense of humour, who are able to cut to the quick of other people's problems to help them."

There is already a buzz in Hollywood that *The Broken Hearts Club* could nab Mahoney an Oscar nomination.

The Broken Hearts Club is being called *The Boys in the Band* for the new millennium. The comparisons are as obvious as they are warranted, but the characters are far less self-loathing. Gay men will be able to see themselves on the screen without hating the fact that they do.

It is also a relief to have a gay film that doesn't feature someone dying of AIDS.

It has been criticized for being so specifically about gay Hollywood, but that's a debatable point. These men exist in cities all over North America. Environment helps shape their lives and attitudes, to be certain, but it's not what makes them gay or dictates their problems and longings.

The Broken Hearts Club is already playing in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal and is scheduled to open in other major centres across Canada before the end of the year. Also watch out for these gay-themed movies:

Boys Life 3: Another anthology of short gay films featuring contributions from Barbra Streisand's son Jason Gould, and Michael Landon's son Chris, both of whom are gay

Just One Time: A hunky fireman fantasizes about watching his wife have sex with another woman. She agrees on the condition he'll return the favour by having sex with one of the guys at the firehouse.

Urbania: Things get wild when a gay New Yorker who is obsessed with urban legends meets a mysterious stranger.

Paragraph 175: Rupert Everett narrates this story of the plight of the 100,000 men arrested for homosexuality in Nazi Germany.

Blow Dry: The writer of *The Full Monty* tells this story of a hairdresser vying for England's top prize in his profession.

Shadow of the Vampire: The gay German filmmaker F.W. Murnau (John Malkovich) hires a real vampire (Willem Defoe) to star in *Nosferatu*, his silent screen version of *Dracula*.

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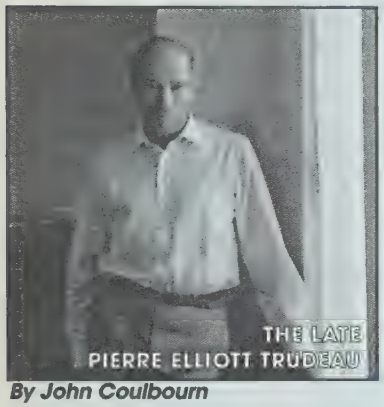
Trudeau: more than just mania



By John Coulbourn

"Friends, Romans, Countrymen ..."

Thus did a grieving Justin Trudeau summon memories of the most famous eulogy in literature and set the stage for his own tribute to his late father. Then, having evoked Marc Anthony's tribute to a fallen Julius Caesar (as imagined by an old time Brit who wrote under the name of William Shakespeare), young Justin veered away from the text before he got to the real meat of the matter. Not that whole bit about "I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him ...," because frankly, Justin was there to do both—and everybody knew it. But few scholars of Shakespeare, one suspects, heard those words fall from the lips of the grieving son without proceeding immediately to: "The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft' interred with their bones."

In the days immediately following the death of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, it began to look as though it was the evil that Trudeau did that would be consigned to his tomb, while the good would become so vastly over-inflated it would eventually obscure the sun.

Ordinary Canadians were heard to speculate that he was perhaps the greatest Prime Minister who ever lived—a tribute certainly, but a tribute tarnished somewhat, at least in my mind, by the certain knowledge that the 'average' ordinary Canadian is hard pressed to name more than two or three Prime Ministers and knows next to nothing about such giants as Mackenzie King or Laurier. But with the rituals of grieving out of the way, pundits and average people are starting to sort through the debris in an attempt to figure out just where Trudeau fits in the overall scheme of things.

Much has been written—and rest assured, much more *will* be written—about the Trudeau legacy, as each of us strives to bring the man and the leader into some sort of personal historical perspective.

As a young man in Alberta, I recall only too well his sneering dismissal of Robert Stanfield's suggested wage and price controls, only to embrace them several months later, when Stanfield had been defeated and Trudeau had taken office. I remember his cavalier rape of Alberta's energy industry and, yes, I remember that famous finger. Never has a single digit expressed so much contempt for so many.

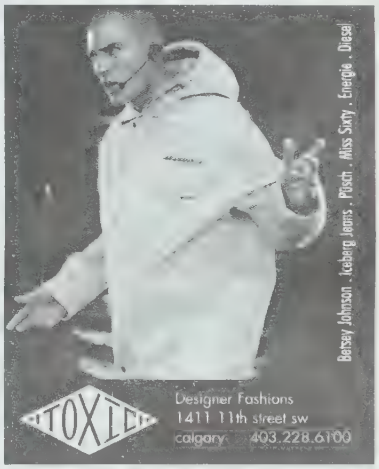
As a young gay man in Alberta, however, I remember too, that it was Trudeau who introduced the legislation that decriminalized a way of loving to which I was born. I remember what it meant to hear an elected official proclaim that the state had no business in the bedrooms of the nation and know that he was right. As a mature gay man, however, I cannot ignore the fact that Trudeau's legalization of my life style was, in fact, only the first step in opening the door to allow us to take our rightful place in society.

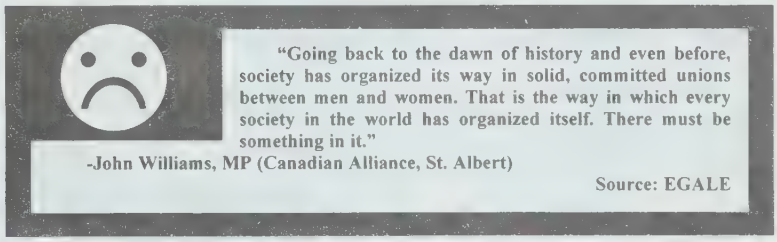
For while it was Trudeau's conviction that led to the legalization of homosexuality, it is, in fact, his legacy that has led to its legitimacy. In framing Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Trudeau created the framework on which the Canadian community of gays and lesbians have taken our greatest strides towards equality.

To be certain, Trudeau negotiated away the inclusion of sexual orientation in the original Charter of Rights and Freedoms in order to get more provinces to climb aboard, but he lived long enough to see the courts read it into that charter—something, one suspects, he knew would happen all along. So what is Trudeau's legacy, finally? Wage and price controls are gone—and will probably never be imposed again, as long as there's anyone alive who remembers how completely ineffective they were.

Alberta's energy industry is flying high, and the rest of the province is soaring on its coat-tails, and we now live in a world where everyone seems to give everyone else the finger. In the main, despite Shakespeare's words, Trudeau outlived the evil he did. As for the good ...

Well, that depends on just how well we, as a society, defend the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A Just Society can't be built in one lifetime, it seems, but it could conceivably be torn down in a single election. And right now, that bears remembering.





"Going back to the dawn of history and even before, society has organized its way in solid, committed unions between men and women. That is the way in which every society in the world has organized itself. There must be something in it."

-John Williams, MP (Canadian Alliance, St. Albert)

Source: EGALE

Dear Freddy...

Dear Freddy,

I've been having these freaky dreams for a while and they're really starting to mess me up. Basically, they involve my grandparents and other relatives who have died watching me having sex. At first I just passed them off as weird dreams, but now when I'm in bed with someone I get this creepy feeling like I'm being watched. I'm freaked out. Help.

Spooked in southern Alberta

Dear Spooked,

Who are you, Haley Joel Osment? "I see dead people — and they're all voyeuristic perverts…" Honestly, do you really think the dead have nothing better to do than watch your sorry, pasty ass bob up and down in the sack? If they're going to watch *anyone* screw it'll be Antonio Sabato Jr. or someone of that ilk, not *you* (they have 'all access' passes, remember?).

What you really need to do is confront your subconscious fears and make those naughty kinfolk go away. Why not do a "Sue Johansen meets Freddy Kreuger" thing while you're *in flagrante*?

Next time you're 'gittin' you some,' try addressing that crew of curious Caspers directly and see if it gives you some piece of mind. Shout out things like, "How'm I doin', grandma?" and, "Why not grab some popcorn, Uncle Frank, you dirty old bugger!"

I'm sure that by acknowledging your fears and speaking to the pornographic poltergeists that have taken up residence in your head (open-plan living, is it?), the nightmares will subside. The guy you're screwing will probably take a hike, but, hey, that's the price of therapy.

Sweet dreams,
Fred

Dear Freddy,

I have a funny itch "down there" and I don't know what to do about it. Any advice?

Concerned

Dear Concerned,

Scratch it, you fool. Then go see a doctor—you've probably got an ant farm worth of god-knows-what down there. Eeeuuuw.

Freddy

P.S. You meant that literally, right? If it was a figurative thing, then get laid. Safely. Often. Goodbye.

F.

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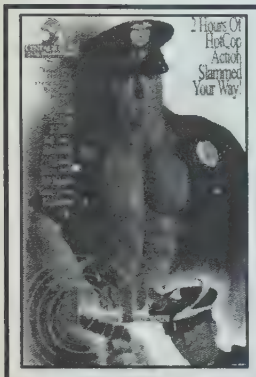


HOT COPS 2

From: Centaur Films

Featuring: Jeff Austin, B.J. Slater, Kyle Brandon, Shawn Justin, Dino Phillips, Rex Baldwin, York Powers, Tanner Reeves, Karl Radford, Brandon Reeves

Running Time: 115 minutes

There's nothing like a man in uniform—except, perhaps, when he removes that uniform. Justin Jefferies, an ace reporter for the *L.A. Gazette* (played by sexy Jeff Austin) is writing a feature expose on the local precinct of the L.A.P.D. And it's during this story that the men in blue are exposed *without* their uniforms. Sitting at home, Justin places a fake 911 call to see just how long the response time is. Officer 523 responds remarkably quickly, and at first is not amused by the hoax. When Justin explains that his news story has been approved by Desk Sgt. Haines, the officer begins to relax and answer questions. Justin wants to know the most unusual incidents during the officer's career, which turns out to be the investigation of an indecent exposure complaint in West Hollywood. As the officer recounts the story, it turns into a scene between him and the flasher, an encounter that has to be seen to be believed! As investigative reporter, Jefferies goes deeper into the police precinct for research— and finds that it's *obviously* a gay-friendly police department.

The next interview takes place in the men's locker room of the station, where the comings and goings during a shift change prove to be an eye-opener for the handsome reporter. The interview subject turns out to be B.J. Slater, and underneath his uniform lurks the deadly weapon for which he is renowned. As this interview turns into a heated exchange, another officer (played by Rex Baldwin) walks in. Jeffries is totally overwhelmed, as B.J. and Rex are a size-queen's dream come true, and the threesome would make a legendary story if the editor of the *Gazette* ever allowed it to run. If not, it certainly was a satisfying and memorable moment in the reporter's daily routine.

Other investigation and research takes place in the police garage, where four mechanics demonstrate their skills with large tools and lube jobs. By the end of the movie, you'll realize that this story will never appear in print—Jeffries put in a hard day's work, but his editor will just have to stick to the bare facts of what happens in the precinct.

Review sponsored by Rainbow Pride Resource Centre, L100 822 11th Avenue SW, Calgary, 266-5685

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★ SET: ★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★ STORY: ★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★

SUMMER CAMP

From: Ami Photo & Video

Featuring: Nico Tiziani, Oleg Vronski, Martin Eden, Daniel Avedon, Marlin Lennox, Eric Kovac, Adrian Kinski, Ales Hanak, Adam Cartier, Andre Sorel, Denis Aysner

Running Time: 110 minutes

The leaves have fallen from the trees and summer is becoming a distant memory. What better reason could there be for renting a movie with eleven of Bel Ami's hottest young models enjoying the great outdoors at Summer Camp? These hot, horny guys invade paradise when they arrive at their site in the woods, close to a river. The first order of the day is to erect their tents before the fun begins. Although this movie has no dialogue, the story is easy to follow, with great visuals directed by George Duroy.

As soon as the work is done, these hunky guys strip down to their shorts and swimwear for a variety of activities. Soccer is the first activity on the list, although some of the tackles become a little too intimate for a league game. Inevitably skinny-dipping follows, as they all need to cool their hot and sweaty bodies. This is just a tease, and the real action begins during a canoe trip down the river. With muscles flexing in great upper body shots, four canoes—with two studs in each—set off down the river. When one turns over, it leaves two canoeists behind the main party and you're not sure whether this was accidental or intentional. Alone on the riverbank, secluded by the trees, the two guys learn quickly how to paddle together and get their strokes synchronized.

As the movie progresses so, too, does the coupling, with caves, woodsheds, boathouses and the forest providing settings for these muscular young men to get to know each other intimately. Like rabbits in the wilderness, they provide non-stop action, captured by some great camera angles.

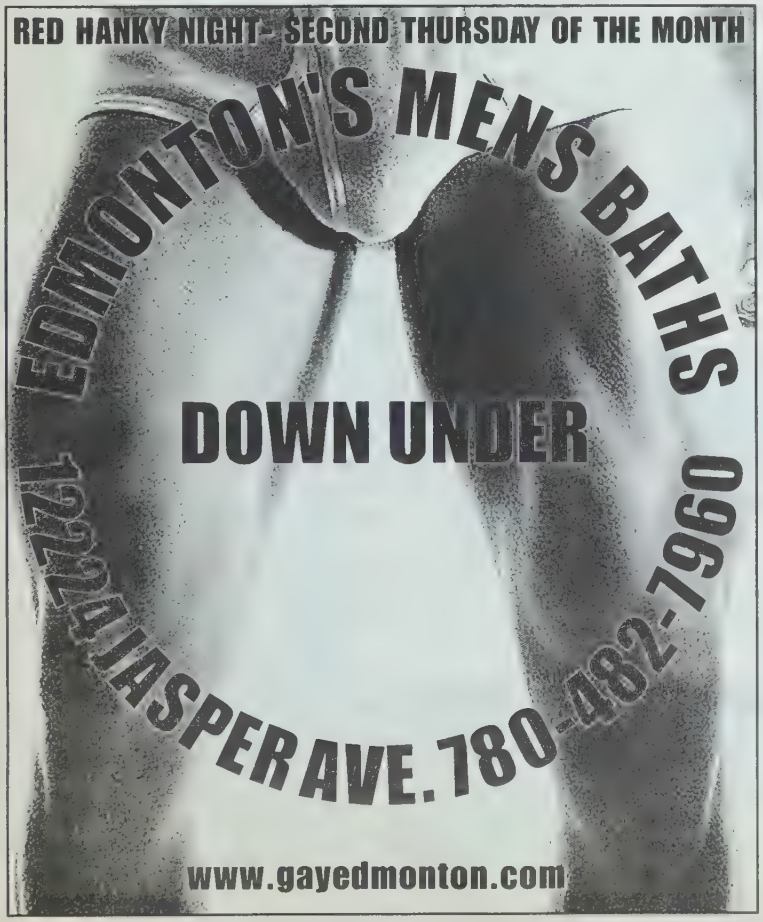
Martin Lennox appears in two scorching scenes, one sawing logs for the fire and the other in a boathouse, proving why a twelve-inch ruler is "king of the woods." He chooses different companions each time, and demonstrates variety truly *is* the spice of life. If you had to choose between these happy campers, you'd probably need to try them all before making a decision. Even then, the choice would be extremely difficult to make and, like Martin, you might opt for a wide variety.

Review sponsored by Express Video, #202 11745 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, (780) 482-7480. Email: exec.express@v-wave.com

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★ SET: ★★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★(★) STORY: ★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

RED HANKY NIGHT- SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH



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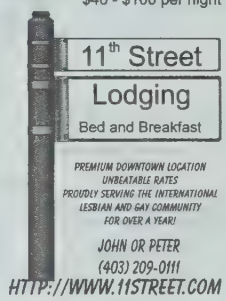

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I'm a very nice, boyish looking person searching for a very attractive white male with a medium build who is good looking, late teens to about 27, living in Calgary. Reply box #1102.

I have black hair, green eyes, 145lbs, 5'5" I enjoy swimming, skiing, snowboarding, biking, movies and just having fun. Reply #1103

I'm 5'8", 165lbs, dark hair, brown eyes, clean shaven, well built, attractive, 24yr old, looking for similar guys 25-35 to get together on a casual basis. Reply #1104

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I am African gay guy, looking for someone to share my love with. If yes write to me. Kofi Abbrey, Box DC 110, Dansoman, Accra, Ghana W/A

Black, attractive gay, 20 years, really handsome guy, submissive, versatile in bed, with smooth attractive chocolate body. Visiting Canada soon, seek genuine gay partner seriously for long term relationship, age unimportant. Philip Baidoo, P.O. Box 620, "Starlets 95 Street" Sunyani — Ghana

Black African boy, 19, cute sexy with slender fleshy chocolate body. Desperate, need man for long term relationship. Age unimportant. Mumuni Issifu, Box SY-803, Makaveli Square, Syi-Brong Ahafo, Ghana — West Africa.

Discover the black boy--I'm slim, tall, sexy, open-minded, genuine, submissive, versatile in bed, 24 yrs (African) with smooth toned body, seek a Canadian man my age who is sincere for long term relationship, am ready to accomodate or visit, let's give love a chance now. Contact: Mr. Charles Sarkodie, P.O. Box DC 110, Dansoman Accra, Ghana W/A

1-2-1 Quest: Brazilian (NO clichet-person!), hairy, white (=non-mixed), masculine male, 39-180-90. ND/NS, unaffected, educated, traveled, very conservative, bit square-minded, romantic, shy, sensitive, bit late-comer into gayhood, seeks similar, male partner, understanding, supportive (blond/corpulent/30-45=plus, not must) for: serious, strictly monogamic, stable, lifelong, cuddlish, affectionate, relationship & life together (there) In English to: Marcelo, P.O. Box 3670, 20001-970 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

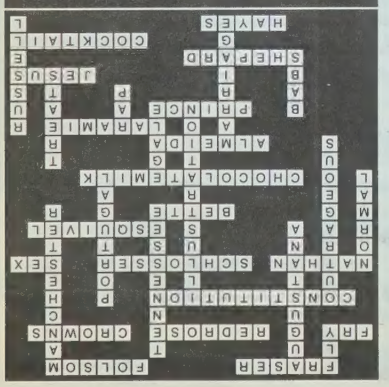
Cute slim dark guy, 22 yrs, need a sincere companion to settle down. No one night stand please. I can travel. Quame Taylor, Box DC110, Dansoman Accra, Ghana W/A

I am a 32-year-old Russian who wishes to find new friends in Canada. My name is Andrew, I am a professional from Siberia now residing in Moscow. I'm 178 cm tall, 68 kilo, light blond hair, blue eyes. If somebody wants to write me by e-mail: Hogan.Malony@mail.USA.com and the ordinary address is Andrew, P.O. Box 7678, Krasnoyarsk, 660092 Russia.

Young, honest, handsome gay 19/178/65, would like to break solitude with your help. I need strong and sincere friendship. Let's plan our future together. I am waiting for your letters in English to: Alexandr Scherbec, P.O. Box 852, Kharkov-2, 310002, Ukraine

Handsome, honest gay professional model, 25/183/72 would like to find good friends for friendship, maybe more. I hope you will break my solitude. Please write me in English to: Taitov Radion, Do Vostrebovania, Kharkhov-118, 310118, Ukraine

Queerword Answers
...puzzle on page 10



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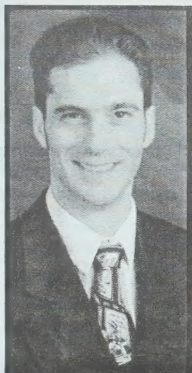

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just friends

Box 2660: I'm a hot, young, single stud, 25 years old, blue eyes, brown hair looking to meet other hot guys for fun times and possible relationship.

Box 2714: I'm Mike, 18, Northeast Calgary, 6'2", 190lb, brown hair, brown eyes, really cute. Looking for guys around my age just friends right now and maybe a longterm relationship, that kind of thing. I play football, so I'm looking for masculine guys.

Box 2718: I'm Ian, 21, 6', 160lb, good-looking, and I'm looking for the same, someone to meet for friends or probably more.

Box 2843: I'm in my 40s, I'm looking for a conservative guy, well-hung, wants to have a good time.

Box 2856: I'm Sean, Native, 21, short brown hair, brown eyes, 5'8", 120lb, 7-1/2" uncut, bottom. Just looking for somebody who is more husky build, masculine, or in that range, 18-30 or even older, good-looking cause I'm good-looking too. I enjoy cuddling, swimming, walking, dance clubs. It's nice to meet and to talk, see where it goes from there.

long term relationships

Box 2515: Young 22 out here, looking to meet someone 20-25 for longterm relationship that might just include hiking, camping, going for walks, hanging with friends, music, movies, going to the clubs now and then, going for coffee. Looking to meet someone who's looking for a longterm relationship as well. Me, I'm 5'6", brown hair, blue eyes, average build.

Box 2545: I'm Rick, honest, kind, caring, loving, 44 year old bottom boy, with brown hair, blue eyes, goatee, hairy body, well-endowed body. Seeking young, kind, loving top. Some of my interests include going for long walks, dancing, movies, camping, hiking, going to the gym, or just talking over a cup of coffee. Looking to start off as friends and to move towards a common goal of relationship. Let's do coffee and take a chance.

Box 2665: I'm a 36 year old gay male, blond hair, moustache, blue eyes, 6', 170lb, disease-free. My interests include swimming, travelling, dancing, and romantic evenings at home with that special guy. I'm not into the bar scene. I'm hoping to meet one special guy for a longterm monogamous relationship. Hoping to hear from a true, sincere, honest person.

Box 2685: Have you ever met the guy who makes your toes curl when you kiss? That you think about all the time. You can't wait till your next encounter, you want to share all the quirky things of your day, you want to share the special moments of your life with. That's what I'm looking for. I'm 28 years old, 6', 185lb, professionally employed and I'm seeking somebody that's very similar to that. I'm always open to meeting new friends, I think first things first, friendships always have to develop, and friendships last forever, which is cool.

Box 2693: I'm a 38 year old, gay white male, 5'5", 155lb, short brown hair, moustache, goatee, hazel eyes, moderately hairy body, nice 7" cut dick, nice big low hanging balls, bottom. Into a lot of oral, love to please a man with it. My interests include horseback riding, stockcar racing, going to movies, going out or staying home for dinner. I'm a cook by trade. I love watching t.v., going to movies, renting movies, spending time with my man, just cuddling on the couch talking about the life. Let's see where it goes.

Box 2697: Fairly new to the Calgary area, mature 24 year old, living in the South West, 6'2", brown hair, brown eyes, very smooth, muscular legs, broad shoulders, 210lb, slowly getting back into shape after a hockey injury. Very easy-going, great sense of humour. I love movies, dancing, the outdoors, rollerblading, hiking, camping that kind of stuff, so many interests. Like I said I'm very down-to-earth and looking to find the "perfect" match.

Box 2839: I'm looking to meet guys 18-25, either employed or going to school, I don't really care what employment or what you're taking in school, just somebody with a bit of grounding in their life. A little about myself, early 30s, look a lot younger, 5'10", 180lb, brown hair, blue eyes, pretty easy-going, great sense of humour, honest, and not really into the big gay scene, but I do have a lot of gay friends. I love to get out to movies, love to travel and get away for the weekend, and go out for coffee and hang out. I'm hoping to meet somebody that'll be there as a friend for a long time, or even in a longterm relationship. Maybe we could meet, have a coffee.

casual encounters

Box 2512: I'm Jason, very straight acting and looking, married bisexual. I really enjoy being with men. I'm very discreet, very clean. I don't play games, I aim to please. I'm just looking for guys who like this as well. I'm looking for anybody from Lethbridge. I'd like to meet for regular encounters, which are hot and erotic. You won't be disappointed.

Box 2529: Tall, good-looking guy, blond hair, blue eyes, lean muscular body, well-endowed. Looking to have some fun with a guy or guys.

Box 2531: Looking to get fucked, downtown Calgary, versatile, young, good-looking, athletic build.

Box 2540: Mid-40s, 5'8", 165lb, Oriental, I don't have a place, I can travel. Time is flexible, days are fine too.

Box 2556: I'm 36, brown hair and eyes, 150lb, pretty much looking for somebody that wants to go out and go to dinner, movies, sit around and chat, have a good time.

Box 2601: I'm 30, white, 5'11", very slender, very small waist, toned and shapely, have a nice round tight ass and very perky nipples that just love to be played with. Looking for a masculine Daddy type, a preferably larger and definitely older than I am. Someone who's very experienced and dominant in bed. I'm into playing a lot of games, love role playing, wearing sexy outfits, and I do like exhibition and very hardcore sex. You must be honest, down to earth, caring and respect ones boundaries. I do smoke, like to drink, also looking for someone who has a video camera. I would like to make a home movie with a gentleman sometime.

Box 2612: I'm 24 year old university student, short brown hair and blue eyes, 135lb, very good-looking, looking for people my own age and younger.

Box 2629: I'm Jay, 22, 6', black hair, very hairy, looking for guys to get together with on a casual basis. I'm very into everything. I like to hang out and just be boys together.

Box 2635: I'm Alec, 5'9", 150lb, clean shaven, shave my balls, like to pitch and catch although I'm new at catching. Looking for someone with very little body hair, prefer Asian or Filipino. I enjoy a number of things, ball games, especially football. I like to just spend hours having a lot of foreplay.

Box 2671: A couple of guys here, looking for some others to join us for a party on the 13th of October at our place. Just for some good, clean fun, in their early 20s-mid-30s .

Box 2676: I'm Michael, calling from Calgary, looking for someone to hang out with tonight, I'm a little but curious.

Box 2681: I'm 5'8", male, moderately hairy, versatile gentleman, looking for some fun and excitement. I'm looking for either one on one situations with dominant aggressive preferably well-endowed guys. Also looking for a male female couple where he is bi. This is definitely a fantasy of mine. I'm highly sexual with blue eyes, straight acting and looking, very clean and discreet and expect the same.

Box 2688: Blond hair, blue eyes, 6', 185lb. wear glasses, nipple pierced, 6"cut cock which is also pierced. What I'm looking for is a guy around my own age who's a top who can entertain in the afternoon.

Box 2707: Just looking for a casual get together. I'm 24, 5'7", half Spanish. We'll have fun! I'm fun to be with and friendly.

Box 2738: Alec, 39, single white male, 5'9", 150lb, very smooth and shaven. Seeking young, single Asian males very smooth.

Box 2750: Good-looking 30 year old, jock, 6', 170lb. smooth muscular, nice ass, narrow hips, 30"waist, broad shoulders. I get right into guys and jocks, and I'm an exhibitionist. Looking for another jock into an erotic thing.

Box 2754: I'm Tony, 5'10', very muscular, work out 5 to 6 times a week. Very bi curious, want to meet that special guy to show me how its done, let me go down in him, whatever is on his mine.

Box 2795: I'm 31, Masculine, straight acting, 6', 180lb, hairy, bottom or top, pretty versatile

Box 2809: I am a 36 year old, attached, bisexual male seeking discreet encounters with other males, unmarried, or bi. Preferably at your place, late afternoons, weekends. I am a bottom, I am 5'10", about 200lb, slightly overweight, not much, just slightly, just a beer belly, not much. I have 6-1/2" uncut. I'm a bottom, I love a lot of ass play, to suck a nice hard cock and to swallow. I have really thinning hair on top, muscular, straight acting, straight looking, I love my sex, I love to play.

Box 2821: I'm Chris, 31, 6'4", 265lb, submissive bottom boy. I'm very kinky, and willing to do just about anything.

Box 2830: Mid-40s, bi male, 6' tall, brown hair, blue eyes, husky build, 6" cut. Has a fetish for oral sex, is fairly new at this, likes to explore new options and avenues.

Box 2831: Hot cowboy stud here, 39 year old white male, sexy and muscular, good-looking, brown hair, green eyes, smooth body, 7" cut cock, nice ass. Looking for hung stud, for some versatile, hot, male to male action.

Box 2834: This is a really tall, masculine, good-looking, 35 year old, is looking for well-hung, black, Latino, Oriental, boys, who want to get together for some serious hot action.

Box 2840: I'm Ivan, 50 years old, brown hair, brown eyes, moustache. 5'11", 190lb, smooth body, 7" uncut cock, very, very clean. What I'm looking for is someone with the essential massage. I love to suck cock, and lick balls.

Box 2846: I'm 48, stocky, 5'9", about 220lb, very hairy body, about 6-1/2" cut, I'm a top. I'm looking for a young, submissive bottom, somebody that would like to get together on a regular basis, and I will look after your needs, financial, and otherwise, if you look after my sexual needs. Everything is very discreet, safe. So if you're looking for some fun with a older fellow, and you're young, and smooth, preferably, small frame, and with giant cock.

Box 2858: I'm Shawn, Native, 21 years old, short brown hair, brown eyes, I'm 5'8", 120lb, 7-1/2" uncut, bottom, open-minded, seeing who's out there. I enjoy going for long walks, relaxing, watching a good movie, cuddling, going for dinner, going for dancing at clubs, going for a drink, just having a good talk, getting to know each other. Looking for someone 18-30, or even older.

leather & SM

Box 2829: I'm a submissive, white, bi male, very oral, 5'10", 160lb, fairly smooth body, 7" cut. Like I said, I'm very oral, I have lots of different interests. I like to please. Looking for dominant tops, 35-60, couples, singles, even groups, I can get very kinky.

Box 2587: I'm an extremely submissive slave, seeking a very dominant sugar daddy, I dream of being held in captivity. I would like to spend the rest of my life as a slave, I would like to be chained. Very much into toilet training, I love to suck ass, and would actually like to serve as your toilet, I like golden showers, and brown showers. Don't know why exactly, but farts are a big turn on, I love the whole aspect of being totally dominated. Having my face sat on. I have a virgin ass, and would like to be trained how to suck your cock.

bears, big men & their admirers

Box 2608: I'm 35 year old, medium build, long hair, blue eyes, 5'8". I'm just looking to meet some guys who'd like to come up here, to relax, and get together.

Box 2735: I'm a white male, 5'6", 130lb, 27" waist, and my perky white ass, is very tight. I'm 20 years old, I have about a 5" cock, uncut, and I'm a submissive bottom. I have brown hair, a goatee, and a moustache, blueish-green eyes, I'm kinda' smooth, and not very hairy. What I'm looking for is a guy, who is preferably over 6', someone who's well built, very well-hung, and is more of a, well you should be a top, but it's not something necessarily to be aggressive, I'm just looking to meet someone nice, and see what happens from there.

phone buddies

Box 2682: I'm Warren, 19 year old, bisexual guy, wouldn't mind getting to know a couple guys around my age, preferably for some good times, and see where we go from there. Get back to me how old you are, what you look like, and where in the city are you. I'm 5'10", 180lb, black hair, brown eyes, we can have some fun.

Box 2859: I'm Shawn, Native, 21 years old, short brown hair, brown eyes. I stand 5'8", 150lb, 7-1/2" uncut, bottom, open-minded, willing to try new things. Looking for someone much taller. I'm into movies, cuddling, just seeing who's out there, going for long walks, going for a quick drink.

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transgender

Box 2527: Divorced white male, 35, good-looking guy, very muscular, seeking transgendered type, 20-30, for a longterm friendship. Very easy to know, lots of fun.

Box 2544: I'm John, 56 years old, and got short dark hair, considered handsome, with a fit hairy body, and I'm looking for someone, that's a crossdresser, transvestite, TV. Sexy, enjoys life, no hang-ups, and is looking for a fun time, just fun times together. You are regular person.

Box 2841: I'm 5'10", 154lb, nice and slim, wonderful collection of extremely erotic fetish clothes, like the thigh high boots, maid's outfit, and all that kind of stuff. And I love being with other erotic crossdressers, or men who enjoy crossdresser worshipping their cock and balls. I also enjoy photography, videos, and bondage and discipline.

Box 2673: I'm looking for an ongoing relationship with a very feminine, and sexy, slim transgender. I'm 6' tall, 180lb, brown hair, hazel eyes, nice smile, confident, ambitious, and positive. I'm looking for a nice girlfriend.

Box 2768: This is Marie. I'm in my mid-40s, 5'9", very passable, attractive, very pretty crossdresser. I'm voluptuous, I'm a submissive bottom, I'm very oral, and occasion, I can entertain.

bisexuals

Box 2541: I'm a mid-40s, 5'8", 165lb, Oriental. Been out in the states, just back in town, looking for some special encounters. Time is flexible, days are fine.

Box 2563: I'm 35 a year old white male, who's extremely bi curious. 5'8", 150lb. What I'm looking for is a bisexual male, shemale, couple, to have my first encounter with, that would be willing to try a one-on-one, with the right guy. I can travel, because of shift work, my timetables vary constantly.

Box 2600: I'm a 30 year old white male, looking to make amateur home movies, with an older teacher/gentleman. I'm 5'11", clean-shaven, with very boyish looks, 165lb, very long legs, very slender with a small waist, very toned and shapely. I have a nice round tight ass, and very prickly nipples that just loved to be played with. I'm straight acting and looking, but very feminine and submissive in bed. I'm looking for a masculine daddy type, someone who is sexually larger, and sexually older than I am. Someone who is very experienced, and dominant in bed. I'm into role playing, wearing sexy outfits, exhibitioning, I love extreme foreplay, and I especially love hardcore sex. You must be honest, very down-to-earth, caring, and you must respect one's boundaries. If you live alone, and you like what you hear, and would love to have this young clean hardbody on a regular basis, I would love to hear from you. I live in the downtown area. I do smoke, I do like to drink, and I do like to be pampered. I do have a lot of fun to offer to the right guy, and please, serious replies only, and discretion is assured, and expected.

Box 2751: I'm 27 year old, Caucasian male, live alone, straight. Very horny, looking to get together with someone on a regular basis.

Box 2825: I'm James, a bisexual male, looking for some fun. Preferably with other couples. I'd really be into that. I've had some experiences, but I'm looking for a lot more. I don't know what to say, I'm about 5'9", 160lb, long blond hair, or long brown hair, and, I don't know, big cock, likes a little bit of both. So if there's any couples out there, or any single males, that want to talk, and get together, you never know.

Box 2842: I'm Steve. I live in Brooks. I get into Calgary occasionally, but I'm really looking for is people to get down this way, once in a while. I'm bisexual, 40 years old, 175lb, 5'11" tall, in good shape, red hair, blue eyes.

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